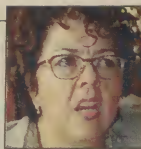


Putting Victory within reach
Bay Area lesbian, gay candidates get
boost from national organization.
page 5

13th int'l AIDS confab ends
Activists call it 'turning point'
in dealing with access, inequities.
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The voluptuous horror
of Karen Black, live
at the Castro Theatre.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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No obits this week - again

by Cynthia Laird

For the second time in just less than two years, the *Bay Area Reporter* has no obituaries in this week's edition.

It was August 13, 1998 that the *B.A.R.* last had no obituaries in an issue, a first since the AIDS epidemic exploded in San Francisco's gay community in the early 1980s.

Like 1998, the news this week doesn't mean there were no AIDS deaths in the past week; next week's issue may have more obits than usual. Nevertheless, after two decades of struggle and death, and some weeks with as many as 31 obituaries printed in the *B.A.R.*, it is noteworthy that there are none this week.

Recently, news reports have covered the fact that HIV infection rates may be on the rise in San Francisco, though there is debate over what that increase may actually be, as health department officials have backpedaled from an initial statement saying there were 900 new HIV infections in San Francisco last year.

Ironically, the news of no obits comes on the heels of a heated meeting of the city's HIV Prevention Planning Council last Thursday, July 13, where councilmember Vince Gaither (a.k.a. Sister Mary Mae Himm) was "outed" by local activists David Pasquarelli and Michael Petrelis for having an advertisement on a barebacking Web site. That same evening, Pasquarelli and Petrelis outed another community member, Keith Folger, of the Stop AIDS Project, whose HIV prevention position is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Folger also had an ad on the Web site (www.barebackcentral.net), though his had been removed by last Friday. As of Tuesday, July 18, the Web site had been removed.

According to the San Francisco Department of Public Health's June AIDS quarterly surveillance report, there have been 184 reported cases of AIDS so far this year, with 109 of those among gay or bisexual men, 31 among injection drug users, and 25 among gay or bisexual IDUs. Eleven of the reported cases were among heterosexuals.

Dr. Mitch Katz, DPH director, told the *B.A.R.* that while it's "great news" that there are no obits this week, it in no way means the AIDS epidemic has lessened, here or anywhere else.

"Sadly, we know that there will be more deaths," Katz said. "Our existing treatment recommendations don't work for everyone and are associated with serious side effects. Nonetheless, the treatments are making a difference and it is nice for our community to have a reprieve, no matter how brief, from death and loss."

According to the *B.A.R.*'s policy, people have up to one year after the death of a loved one to submit an obituary. ▼

Felony grand theft conviction, criminal record revealed District 6 supe candidate Gil Criswell explains 'an ugly time'

by Katie Szymanski
© Bay Area Reporter

The race for San Francisco supervisor in District 6 keeps getting bigger, with each candidate promising to be better than the last, and many gays are among the 27 people running in the progressive district. But one such candidate may have a little more work on his hands; in addition to campaigning, registering voters, and outlining his platform as a "politician for the people," office-seeker Gilbert Criswell may also have to explain his criminal record.

Criswell, now a 15-year resident of San Francisco, was charged in 1986 with a felony for embezzling over \$12,000 in funds from the nonprofit Easter Seal Society, the *Bay Area Reporter* has learned. He then fled the city before he could be served the warrant for 30 counts of forgery and theft, and returned in 1988, only to be recognized by his victims when he appeared on a televised Police Commission hearing to complain about police conduct during the infamous and brutal "Castro Sweep."

Criswell was arrested in 1989 and pleaded guilty to felony grand theft as defined by section 487.1 of the penal code, receiving five years of probation. The six pages of charges listed against Criswell in the court report detail a three-month spree whereby Criswell was caught forging checks and endorsements to obtain Easter Seal money, where he was employed as an accountant. The checks were cashed through Wells Fargo Bank, usually \$500-\$1,000 at a time. But according to Criswell, the anonymous tip that alerted the *B.A.R.* to these incidents is nothing but "dirty

politics," and his arrest itself was an attempt by former Mayor Frank Jordan's administration to discredit witnesses against the police.

"It was an ugly period of time, where gays and lesbians literally had to fight for our survival," Criswell told the *B.A.R.* "I had just had my head splattered against the sidewalk by police and was unemployed and traumatized when I pleaded guilty to those charges."

He added that because the charges were filed when he was in his early 20s, he does not see them as relevant to current campaign issues. Criswell turns 38 years old in January.

"How far are we going to go back - to somebody's high school years?" said Criswell. "I'm busy talking about the issues of today."

Criswell just this week demonstrated on the steps of City Hall to protest "carpetbaggers" - candidates like Mayor Willie Brown's recruit Chris Dittnerhafer - that have moved into District 6 in order to run for the open supervisor seat. District 6 has no incumbent; Supervisor Leslie Katz last week announced she is not running for re-election because she can't afford to move into the district. Dittnerhafer was asked by the mayor to run hours after Katz held her news conference stating she would not be a candidate.

"I'm no saint, but I want to be an example



District 6 candidate Gilbert Criswell

to the community," said Criswell. "I want people to take me as I am - the good and the ugly. But the ugly is from when I was young. I've grown as a person and I've proven myself. That doesn't excuse the fact that I used poor judgment and bad record keeping under no supervision at my old job. But I was set up by the police who sought to discredit the people that testified against them for their brutality at the sweep."

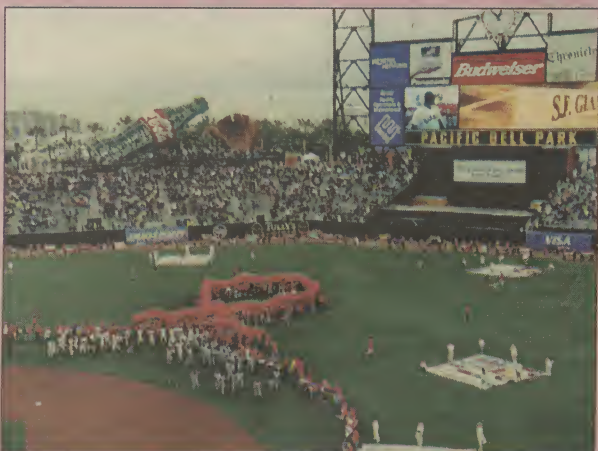
Criswell also noted that playing "dirty politics" was bound to

backfire on most candidates.

"If you want to open Pandora's box it's going to hit a lot of people in this city," he said. "Nobody in San Francisco has a clean past. People know that I've been fighting for gay and human rights and will continue to do so."

Criswell, an Air Force veteran and six-year resident of the Inner Mission, is the host of the queer television show *Electric TV*, and was a vocal supporter of the fight to re-open the bathhouses. He was profiled as a District 6 candidate in the June 8 issue of the *B.A.R.* and has been endorsed by the Emergency Coalition to Save Public Health. District 6 includes the neighborhoods of South of Market, the Tenderloin, Hayes Valley, the Inner Mission, Treasure Island, South Beach, and the Lower Polk. ▼

A first for Pac Bell Park



The seventh annual Until There's A Cure Day event hosted by the San Francisco Giants took place at the Giants' new stadium last Sunday, July 16. The event, organized by the Until There's A Cure Foundation, included the traditional formation of an AIDS awareness red ribbon, pieces of the Names Project's AIDS Memorial Quilt, and speakers. Players from the Giants and the Texas Rangers wore red ribbon insignias on their uniforms; the Giants won the ball game 6-4. Money raised from a portion of ticket and T-shirt sales goes toward AIDS education and research.

Feds allow Oakland club to sell marijuana

by Katie Szymanski

The United States justice system took a small step toward minding its own business but a giant leap for those in need last week when a federal judge ruled against his own order that prohibited the operation of a medical marijuana dispensary in Oakland.

U.S. District Judge Charles Breyer said last Friday, July 14 that he will support a ruling by a U.S. Court of Appeals in San Francisco that allows those with medical necessities to be exempt from nationally-mandated drug penalties. The appeals court found that Breyer did not consider the potential for harm when he banned pot clubs in five California counties two years after the state's medical marijuana law was passed by voters. Breyer's original ruling caused the shutdown of the Oakland Cannabis Buyer's Cooperative, which once

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HIV re-entry education program going strong

by Cynthia Laird

It started about four years ago when Pat Christen, executive director of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, was persuaded to have her agency support a program that would help HIV-positive people re-enter college to complete their education. Today, the HIV Re-entry and Empowerment Program has awarded \$600,000 in scholarships to students, many of whom have earned college degrees and are working in the community.

A variety of outside funding sources have contributed to the scholarship fund. This year, the nonprofit program, run by Executive Director Bill Hershon, received \$250,000 in state funding thanks to Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco). The funds will be used to grant scholarships for eligible state residents. Hershon said that local AIDS activists Jeff Getty and Jeff Sheehy worked with Migden on getting the state funding. Getty, in fact, is a graduate of the re-entry program.

"One hundred percent of the state money will be for student benefit," Hershon told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Hershon noted his program is a separate 501(c)(3) organization. He works out of a small office at New College, which has a collaboration with the re-entry program, although students can receive scholarships to other colleges, Hershon said.

The re-entry program consists of weekend college courses, which includes upper-division classes designed for adult students with prior college experience. Students may enter with 45 to 90 units of transferable credits. The program spans three semesters of four months each. It comprises 12 months of study leading to a



Jake Tapia received his master's degree from Dr. Gary Tomblinson.

bachelor of arts degree. Students attending New College can also participate in the law, psychology, or other programs. New College's Law School is one of the oldest public interest law schools in the country. The graduate psychology program was founded on the understanding that any analysis of individual psychology that ignores social, cultural, and political factors, or any political analysis that does not take into account psychological processes, will be incomplete and misleading.

Since the re-entry program's inception, 47 people have graduated with bachelor's, master's, or law degrees. "A number of people have been placed in community organizations," Hershon added.

One of those people is openly gay Jake Tapia, who earned his bachelor's degree a couple of years ago and last month graduated with a master's degree in AIDS

policy and treatment issues. Tapia now works at the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center.

"I thought it was fantastic," Tapia said of his experience in the re-entry program. "It really changed my life for the better. When I found out I was HIV-positive, I felt trapped. I met up with Bill [Hershon] and Jonathan [Joiner, the program director] and they talked about the scholarship. The only reason I'm in the AIDS field now is because of the program."

Hershon, who's been HIV-positive for over 15 years, earned his law degree from New College. And he sees the difference the re-entry program has made in the lives of the students who have completed it and earned college degrees. ▼

For more information about the program, call Jonathan Joiner at (415) 241-1356.

City issues first medical pot ID cards

by Terry Beswick

Today we are here to herald the creation of the cannabis voluntary ID card system," announced Department of Public Health Director Dr. Mitch Katz last Friday, July 14 before a small gathering of medicinal marijuana supporters on the steps of the DPH building at 101 Grove Street across from San Francisco's City Hall.

Get 'em while they're hot. They're the new non-identifying

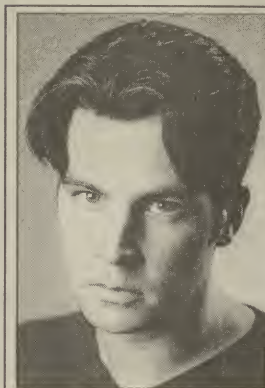
ID cards which, for a fee of \$25 and a little paperwork, the city is now giving users of medical marijuana and their primary caregivers the chance to go legit. The new medical cannabis ID card with the health department's imprimatur – but with no identifying information on them save the cardholder's picture – can simply be flashed at inquisitive law enforcement officers, proving that the city has certified them as legitimate medical cannabis users or primary caregivers (people who help a primary cardholder grow

or maintain a ready stash of cannabis).

In San Francisco, busts for the personal use of marijuana – medical or otherwise – are not common, according to the San Francisco Police Department. But harassment is still known to occur, and the new program is designed to take some of the worry away from those who imbibe the weed for its known medicinal benefits.

The DPH program was made possible by voter-approved Proposition 215 in 1996, which

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Man collapses at MCC shelter, dies

by Terry Beswick

A 25-year-old man died Thursday afternoon, July 6, the *Bay Area Reporter* has learned, after experiencing an undisclosed medical emergency three and a half days earlier at the new queer youth shelter at Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco in the Castro.

The church has dubbed the new six-bed shelter "Matt's Place" to honor Matthew Shepard, the gay college student murdered in 1998.

According to the Reverend Penny Nixon, co-pastor at MCC-SF, Curtis Howard was staying at the church's shelter the night of Sunday, July 2, and at about 5 a.m. on Monday July 3, "a staff counselor called paramedics and he was taken to the hospital."

"The Castro, the Eureka Valley Recreation Center, and Matt's Place was home for Curtis," Nixon said in a statement. "He volunteered his time as a sign language interpreter for the deaf during our church services. We are very grateful that Curtis's last days were spent in a clean place with people caring for him. As members of the queer community, we value an ethic of 'death with dignity.'"

MCC-SF declined to provide further details surrounding the circumstances of Howard's condition at the time of his transport by



The late Curtis Howard was photographed as part of the "Church Street Shelter Photography Project."

ambulance to California Pacific Medical Center's Davies campus on Castro Street.

The church said that during his final hours, Howard was with his mother, Sandy, MCC-SF pastor Jim Mitulski, and others.

At press time, the *Bay Area Reporter* was not able to confirm Howard's cause of death with the hospital, although according to MCC-SF's prepared statement issued Tuesday, July 18, the young man "died of cardiac arrest."

An employee of the San Francisco Medical Examiner's office,

who asked not be named, said the office had no record of the death, which he said indicated that the attending physician had not ordered an autopsy. He added that if recreational drugs had been found in the young man's blood at the time of his early morning hospital admission, the attending physician would have been required to order an autopsy, including toxicology tests.

The body has been cremated, and the cost of several hundred dollars was covered by MCC-SF.

A memorial service was held at MCC-SF last Wednesday evening, July 12. San Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno said that he spoke at the service, and also adjourned a recent session of the Board of Supervisors in Howard's memory.

Leno had stopped by the MCC-SF shelter "a few times" since it opened on May 28, five weeks prior to Howard's apparently sudden, and ultimately fatal, illness. Howard was part of a small, tight "family" of homeless young people, Leno said, who had been staying regularly at the small shelter, and previously at the city-funded temporary shelter at MCC's now-closed church in Noe Valley, where the supervisor had been a frequent visitor.

The Noe Valley shelter, established to house 10-12 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, queer, and questioning young adults between the ages of 18 and 24, was fully

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PWAs can get housing money from state

by John Iversen

People living with AIDS or other disabilities and senior citizens can receive up to \$816 this year from the state, but some AIDS service organizations might not know about the one-time offer, advocates said.

"Due to the large state budget surplus, Governor Gray Davis drastically increased the Homeowners and Renters Assistance Program for this fiscal year only," said Fiona Ma, district representative for state Senator John Burton (D-San Francisco).

Devan, a San Francisco tenant and PWA who did not want his last name used, received his \$600 check last week. "I was shocked. I was only expecting \$240 and was unaware of the large increase. Everyone on disability should apply for this," he said. Devan mailed his completed form to the state Franchise Tax Board about six weeks ago.

"It's really sad and frustrating. Case managers at AIDS agencies should know about this and should have been telling us about this years ago," said Devan.

The homeowners portion of the program began in 1968. Blind and disabled renters were added in 1979, according to Denise Azimi, of the Franchise Tax Board.

Azimi reported that more people are becoming aware of the program. "In 1998 we mailed out 160,000 checks. In 1999, we sent 400,000." Azimi credited state Assemblyman Mike Machado (D-Stockton) for raising the allowable income levels consistent with inflation.

Ma stated that Burton's office did a district mailing last year to inform his constituents.

Stephanie Snyder, case manager at Oakland's Center for AIDS Services, has helped over 40 PWAs complete their forms this year. "We found out about the renters assis-

tance late in the game last year, so this year I got on top of it in April. Our low-income clients can really use the cash," Snyder said.

All Californians who were disabled, blind, or over 62 on December 31, 1999 qualify if they pay at least \$50 per month on rent or are homeowners. Any individual with 1999 income less than \$33,993 or household income less than \$61,806 is eligible. Rebate amounts increase as income decreases. Anyone on SSI (approximately \$8,500 annual income) can

receive the \$816 or \$600 amounts.

Free assistance in filling out the forms is available at most California senior citizen centers through August 31.

"Late applications will be accepted, but we'd like everyone to apply by August 31," said Azimi.

People can call 1-800-338-0505 or visit the Web site at www.ftb.ca.gov or people can pick up Forms 9000 (homeowners) and 9000R (renters) at 455 Golden Gate Avenue in San Francisco and 1515 Clay Street in Oakland. ▼

ACT UP/SF hearing on restraining orders continues

by Katie Szymanski

The tribulations – and trials – of our hometown AIDS activism rift shall proceed as usual at the civil courthouse when Project Inform's quest to secure restraining orders against ACT UP/San Francisco continues this Tuesday, July 25.

Project Inform's case is based on years of harassment, according to its staff, but culminated with the April 17 demonstration of ACT UP members David Pasquarelli, Michael Bellefontaine, Andrea Lindsay, Ronnie Burk, Todd Swindell and others, who stormed a strategic treatment interruption forum and allegedly assaulted and threw hard pills at participants. Project Inform's Judy Leahy injured her knee during the mayhem, reportedly after Pasquarelli pushed her.

The hearings have lasted more than a month at this point and have included everything from the description of tedious, irrelevant details to the high drama of

Pasquarelli and Bellefontaine being arrested mid-testimony. The pair were apprehended June 30 by police on misdemeanor charges stemming from the April 17 incident, and ACT UP/SF blamed Project Inform for arranging the arrest in order to interfere with the case. Project Inform's attorneys denied the charges.

ACT UP members have repeatedly disputed allegations of violence while on the stand, and their attorney even somehow got Leahy to admit that she did not actually see Pasquarelli shove her before she fell (she did, however, fall in a direction that seems to exclude the possibility that someone was accidentally pushed into her). Describing their tactics as "performance art," ACT UP members also rejected the idea that they threw any pills, although they do admit seeing them fly through the air.

If the restraining orders are granted, the ruling could effectively bar ACT UP/SF from any public place where Project Inform staff members are present. ▼

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Bay Area gay candidates get national endorsement

by Cynthia Laird

Two Bay Area candidates who are in runoff elections in November for city council races received endorsements from the national Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund. The Monday, July 17 announcement included several openly gay and lesbian candidates who are seeking a variety of public offices in races across the country.

Both Rebecca Kaplan, who's running for the at-large seat on the Oakland City Council, and Ken Yeager, who's running for the District 6 seat on the San Jose City Council, were endorsed by the Victory Fund. Neither council has ever had an elected openly gay or lesbian member.



Oakland's Rebecca Kaplan

The Victory Fund has endorsed 30 candidates so far for 2000 and 2001 races. The people, from 16 states, include Democrats, Republicans, independents, and third party candidates running for local, state, and federal office.

"We have a large number of gay and lesbian community leaders running for office throughout the country, with new endorsements expected at a quickening pace as November nears," said Brian Bond, executive director of the Victory Fund. "While America has about half a million elected officials, fewer than 200 are openly gay, lesbian, or bisexual, and the discrimination our community faces remains rampant throughout the country and legal in 39 states and under federal law."

In Oakland, Kaplan will face incumbent Henry Chang for the at-large seat. A community activist and Green Party member, Kaplan has been endorsed by her party's presidential candidate Ralph Nader and progressive leader Noam Chomsky. Despite being greatly outspent by Chang in the March primary, Kaplan placed a respectable second, and Chang failed to get a majority of votes, resulting in the runoff.

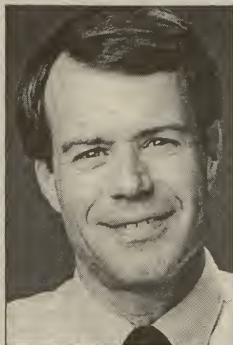
In the South Bay, Yeager has been gearing up for his runoff; he will face neighborhood activist Kris Cunningham for the council seat that includes the Willow Glen and Rose Garden areas near the

center of San Jose. Yeager was the top vote-getter in March, but since none of the candidates got a majority of votes, he's in the November runoff.

Yeager, a Democrat who has the support of San Jose Mayor Ron Gonzales, is currently the only openly gay elected official in Silicon Valley; in 1992 he was elected to the San Jose Community College Board, to which he was re-elected in 1996. In that capacity, he succeeded in implementing a domestic partnership initiative.

Both Kaplan and Yeager have held recent fundraising events, and more are planned, as well as debates with their respective challengers as their campaigns move into high gear.

Beyond publicizing its endorsements to inform the gay and lesbian community about qualified openly gay and lesbian candidates, the Victory Fund invites di-



San Jose's Ken Yeager

rect contributions from its members to the campaigns of their choice. The organization then bundles these contributions and sends 100 percent of this assistance to the campaigns in a strong

demonstration of community support when the candidates need it most. The Victory Fund's political action committee also makes its own direct candidate contributions.

To support Kaplan, contributions should be made out to "The Committee to Elect Rebecca Kaplan" and there is a \$500 limit for individuals. Corporate contributions are prohibited.

To support Yeager, checks should be made payable to "Ken Yeager for City Council." San Jose has a \$250 contribution limit and all funds must be received by October 23.

Donations can be sent to the Victory Fund, 1012 14th Street NW, Suite 1000, Washington, D.C. 20005. ▼

For more information, call (202) 842-8679 or check out www.victoryfund.org.

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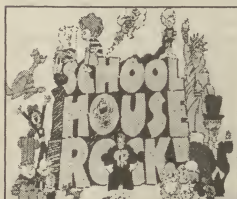
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Bare bones prevention

The newly resurrected gay activist group Queer Nation caused quite a stir last week in HIV/AIDS advocacy circles when members bombarded the city's HIV Prevention Planning Council and a Stop AIDS Project-sponsored forum with the salacious revelations that two prevention advocates – one an HPPC member and the other a federally funded prevention worker for Stop AIDS – had advertisements on a bareback Web site. Barebacking, of course, is the widely used term these days for what is unprotected anal sex, or more simply, fucking without a condom. And, as everyone knows by now, prevention experts, advocates, and community leaders have been drumming home the fact that – barring abstinence – sex with a condom is one of the most effective HIV prevention techniques around.

While on the face of it, Queer Nation's "outing" was typically over the top, and likely caused the two men, Vince Gaither (a.k.a. Sister Mary Mae Himm) and Keith Folger, some public embarrassment, in the long run, the activists have hit upon something that needs the community's full attention – and at the same time raises some questions.

The HPPC is a community planning body that was established through a grant from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Stop AIDS Project's "Positive Force" forums – and by extension Folger's salary – are paid for by the CDC. Is it hypocritical that there are at least two openly HIV-positive men who are affiliated with those bodies – which are by their very existence committed to promoting HIV prevention in San Francisco – who are actively advertising themselves as people who bareback, even if all their barebacking partners are also HIV-positive, as claimed?

At first, we thought so.

But after thinking it through, we now see this as a good thing for HIV prevention efforts. Or at least, it can be if gay men and others interested in stemming the rate of HIV infection seize the opportunity.

And that is the opportunity of dealing with something that has basically been an open secret since the term "barebacking" surfaced in the mainstream media over two years ago. That not-so-secret fact is – and Gaither and Folger have told us this – a lot of gay men are barebacking. Why? Well, as gay men have been saying since the begin-

ning of the AIDS epidemic, sex without a condom feels better. That point was brought home just this week in a local daily newspaper. As gay journalist Bruce Mirken succinctly put it, "Sex is ultimately about intimacy. And however you slice it, condoms are the enemy of intimacy." Anyone who tells you that sex with a condom is the same is lying, he added, and while condoms may slow the AIDS epidemic down, they will never stop it.

Therein lies the challenge, and the opportunity that must be taken: gay men need to start talking openly about the issues involved in barebacking and prevention workers need to get with it and publicly acknowledge that it is occurring more and more. The Department of Public Health needs to increase awareness about its Post-Exposure Prophylaxis program, so that people who have been exposed to a high-risk sex practice can get tested and begin anti-HIV treatments if they choose to do so.

Prevention educators need to get real, stop judging, and start informing people who bareback with people of known or un-

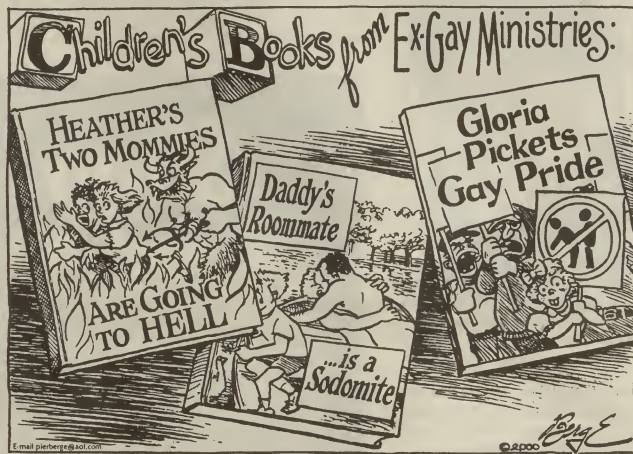
known serostatus about how they can minimize their risk of infection or re-infection. It's called "harm reduction," in the parlance of public health.

Steven Tierney, the DPH's HIV prevention director, told us that he's not averse to having Gaither remain on the HPPC, and that it would be a good way to get a dialogue going about this critical issue facing many gay men. Steven Gibson, Folger's boss at Stop AIDS, feels the same way.

On the research front, as we've been saying for years, scientists and others should redouble efforts to find a microbicide – a cream or gel – that will block HIV infection. Studies under way are woefully underfunded and aren't even focusing on a microbicide that can be used for anal sex, the primary HIV transmission route among gay and bisexual men. This needs to immediately change.

Honesty and communication are needed among men who have sex with men to deal with the new reality of increased high-risk sex. Increased funding for medical research into rectal microbicides is urgently needed to develop a safe, effective product. ▼

Editorial



The battleground is our body

by Reverend Penny Nixon

In the war for our spirit, the battleground is our body.

When Pope John Paul II condemned the recent gay pride march in Rome, his words spread far beyond the plaza of St. Peter's Square. Each sentence was a precise, calculated, and carefully prepared weapon aimed at our bodies. Queer bodies!

Like others who hold power, this pope knows the regulation and condemnation of a person's body, through legislation, religious dogma, and physical domination, is the ultimate source of control. He fully understands regulations are not simply written on books of sacred and civic law.

To effectively exercise his power he knows he must reach to the flesh of bodies, where skin bleeds, bones break, and vaginas tear. He uses terror and shame as weapons, just as much as when desire's voice is silenced and love itself is mutilated. He knows full well the response to words like "disordered," and "contrary to natural law," is beaten, bruised, and battered bodies.

On Sunday, July 9, though physically frail, Pope John Paul II flexed the full muscle of the Roman Catholic Church to declare his position as "Holy Father."

When Pope John Paul II said, "The church cannot silence the truth, because this ... would not help discern what is good from what is evil," it was his declaration that he, not us, determined the appropriate control of our bodies.

In 1993, when the pope visited Africa, it had been established that millions of women and men on that continent were HIV infected and whole villages were deci-

mated by the AIDS plague. In this environment the pope condemned use of contraception and labeled it a sin.

The only realistic way to make a difference in the rising spread of the epidemic was religiously opposed. For this celibate man from another culture, a "holy" man, to use his power in such a way is perverse. When any world religious leader calls AIDS a divine retribution and refuses to promote safe sex as a public health issue, they – not us – are morally deficient.

When their theology of calculated silence is clearly more important than bodies who would suffer and die, it is they who are intrinsically evil. Their rhetoric of judgment is different only in degree, but not in kind, from the picket signs of Fred Phelps and his godhatesfags.com Web site.

The mass rape of women in Bosnia stunned the senses and motivated a course of action. There was a passionate effort to have these atrocities recognized as war crimes. With horror we read that Pope John Paul II responded not in outrage or support. Rather, his response was a prayer that these violated women wouldn't have abortions. Using language of the church, his response is an abomination, an anathema to the gospel.

The social teachings of the Roman Catholic Church are grounded in a deep-seated belief in solidarity with those who are marginalized or outcast. Yet, never can we forget that thousands who celebrated an unprecedented day of World Pride earlier this month in the "Holy City" will return to countries where their lives are threatened.

Because of this pope's statements, bod-

ies will be at constant risk solely because of how they love. In America, gay youth will continue to roam our streets, outcasts from their families and churches.

Why isn't compassion extended to people on these margins? Why must we be put down the moment we rise up proud and celebratory? Obviously, in the grand religious scheme, some bodies matter and some do not.

On Saturday, July 8, we came by the thousands to Rome. As a community we stood at the gates of the Vatican. The words of the church say, "Come to me all that are weary and I will give you rest." Their action was rejection. Religion is not the culprit. It is the abuse of power and the misuse of the religious teachings.

The weekend of World Pride revealed another spiritual truth. The pope is not the only one who can claim to speak for God, nor is he the only "Christian" voice. The voice of the people, spiritual people, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people can and did become a powerful voice of Christians and people of faith.

It was a voice that demands respect for our bodies as temples of God. A voice that declared our bodies matter, all of them. It is our voice that denounces every religious theology that will support or tolerate any body to be battered, bruised, bashed or beaten. Our struggle is to declare that our bodies must never again be used as the battleground in the war for our spirit. ▼

The Reverend Penny Nixon is co-pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco

LETTERS

Health director responds

Does the *Bay Area Reporter* believe in the public's right to know, even if that information is not yet finalized? Does the B.A.R. believe that a Health Department should work with community researchers on analyzing data, even if that may sometimes result in premature leaks of information? Would the B.A.R. prefer a Health Department that operated in secrecy to prevent leaks?

I pose these questions because of last week's editorial in the B.A.R. ("Numbers games at DPH") that was highly critical of the Department of Public Health. The editorial claims that we "flame[d] the fires of AIDS bias" because a community researcher revealed to a rival newspaper that the data available at that time indicated that the number of new HIV infections in San Francisco had increased from 500 to 900 infections per year.

As I told the B.A.R. when they called, I had not yet reviewed the data and the best estimate of the number of new infections in San Francisco could be higher or lower than 900 infections a year. I also explained that we believed, from multiple indicators that we have released in the past, that HIV incidence (the likelihood that a person will become newly infected with HIV) had increased in San Francisco. The fact that HIV incidence is increasing is much more significant than the estimated number of new infections, since the number of new infections depends on a variety of factors including the size of the affected community.

Although, I wish that my department had the opportunity to present the data when it was ready and fully reviewed, I do not regret that I run the department in an open manner, with community participation, even if it sometimes results in news leaks. I have faith in the public's ability to review information and draw their own conclusions.

The study that sparked the media interest showed that HIV incidence among men who have sex with men and went for testing at one of our anonymous testing sites had increased from 1.3 percent in 1997 to 2.6 percent in 1998 to 3.7 percent in 1999. It is just one study and like all studies it is subject to bias. But the results ring true. Several gay men have commented to me, since the stories appeared, that they knew that HIV infections in San Francisco were increasing because of the increasing unsafe sex that they had observed in our community. None of them thought that it is "hysterical" or a "scare tactic" to report to the community what the best available data show.

My department will be working closely with researchers from the University of California, San Francisco's Center for AIDS Prevention Studies and other community researchers to finalize the best estimates and will make those results available to the public as soon as we can.

Staying safe is a difficult challenge. Love, passion, and desire are powerful motivators of behavior. Our community has experienced tremendous losses, has struggled with maintaining safe behavior for going on two decades, as well as withstanding the hypocrisy of an American society that is critical of gay men having multiple sexual partners but opposes same-sex marriages. Our presenting data is not meant in any way to make judgments about individuals. And I do not accept that presenting this data is anti-gay or anti-sex. Having sex without putting each other at risk of illness is an intimate and joyful expression of the best part of being human.

Dr. Mitch Katz, Director
San Francisco Department of Public Health

Questions that need to be asked

Are we part of the problem or part of the solution? Once again, there has been an enormous amount of press attention given to the increase in new HIV infections and our role as gay men in contributing to them. There's been a flurry of attacks on the health department and on individual gay men. People seem to be scrambling to blame somebody. As HIV-positive and HIV-negative gay men, what we haven't seen is a lot of thoughtful questioning and soul-searching. We think that there are just a few simple and important questions we need to ask ourselves, and ask one another.

1. Do we want to end the epidemic or prolong it? Epidemiology is not an exact science. The numbers from the San Francisco Department of Public Health have always been, and always will be, estimates. Maybe 500 of us are getting infected each year, maybe 600. All signs appear that we're taking more risks and more of us are getting infected. How would an exact number change how we act?

2. Can we take responsibility for ourselves or do we need to blame others? What can we do in our daily lives - in our sex lives - to end the epidemic? What level of responsibility do we have for ourselves, our partners, our friends, our community, the people we care about? If all of us avoid transmission, HIV goes away. If some of us slip once in a while, we'll still beat it. But if too many of us give up trying our hardest, as we've recently seen, the epidemic will continue on and on and on. Can we all have any kind of sex we want and also end the epidemic?

3. Are we part of the solution or part of the prob-

lem? None of us is perfect. No one is above criticism. But, it's too easy to just criticize and blame - to pick a target and attack. It takes courage to make constructive changes, whether they are at the personal or community level. What all of us could really use now is encouragement to try harder and do better. When your local elected officials support solid prevention programs, thank them. If not, ask them why. Offer to help. When your researchers or local health officials give you numbers that are useful, thank them. If not, ask them why. Offer to help. When you see gay men volunteering by handing out condoms, safe-sex flyers, surveys, clean needles - thank them. Offer to help. When you don't see them - ask yourself why. When your friends tell you they're being safe, thank them. When they're not, ask them why.

It may go against every cultural taboo in the world to bring it up, but we're talking survival here. There is no magic bullet, no vaccine, no one-size-fits-all prevention program. Although as gay men we share a tremendous amount, we are truly too diverse for that. It's up to us, all of us, to stop the epidemic. AIDS is by no means over. We can protect our future by caring about each other right now and by speaking up for what we know is right.

Eric C. Ciasullo, Steve Lew, Les Pappas
San Francisco

Dan Wohlfeiler
Berkeley

Leno clarifies affordable housing plan

Given the complexity of our housing crisis, I understand that there might be confusion about my proposals to increase the number of affordable units in San Francisco for people of low to modest incomes. Clarity can be found in the actual text of the legislation.

On page two of the proposed ordinance, the definition of affordable housing is spelled out: "Each unit shall be rented ... only to households with an annual net income equal to or less than the qualifying limits for a household of low income." Low income for renters is defined as \$30,420 or below. If you make more than that, you would not qualify

to rent an affordable unit. The most a family of two could make in combined income is \$34,740, which translates to a wage of about \$8.50/hour per person. Clearly this legislation will assist those who are currently being forced out of San Francisco by exorbitant rents, not the wealthy. It will protect those who have lived in the city for generations and who make it diverse and unique: teachers, senior citizens, immigrants, students, artists, and others.

Ultimately, we must decide which approach moves us forward: the status quo or the way things would be if these proposals become law. Right now, live-work units are springing up across the city and have no affordability requirements. Under my legislation, 12 percent of live-work units would have to be affordable. Currently, developers are asked to provide 10 percent affordability for projects needing a conditional use but are not required to do so. If my legislation were enacted, developers would be required to provide 12 percent affordability across the board for conditional use projects. It's clear which situation will result in more affordable units, and it's not the status quo.

It's time to take action on this complex issue, because real people's lives are at stake. We cannot allow politics or misinformation to deter our efforts to address our most serious problems. These proposals were painstakingly crafted over six months of meetings in my office by affordable housing, transportation, neighborhood and environmental activists, and developers who agreed to put their differences aside and work together for the good of the city as a whole. It doesn't solve all of our housing problems, but it's a bold step down a neglected path.

Mark Leno, Member
San Francisco Board of Supervisors

Tenants need help now

The Mark Leno-San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, et al. proposed response to the current housing crisis in San Francisco (B.A.R., July 13) fails to address the immediate horror facing tenants and will likely only exacerbate the problem further.

Building mostly market-rate housing as Leno recommends, together with the frenzied, redundant onrush of speculative e-commerce, promises a continuing bidding up of whatever housing is built. Awareness of this new housing by the dot-com enterprisers will serve only to encourage even more e-commerce speculation. As well, the amount of time needed to construct.

Leno's proposed housing, and thus its doubtful eventual stabilizing effects on housing costs, fails to address the immediacy of the crisis.

Tenants face the here-and-now problem of massive numbers of evictions fueled almost solely by, let's call it what it is - greed - using the enabling Ellis Act

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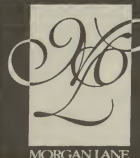


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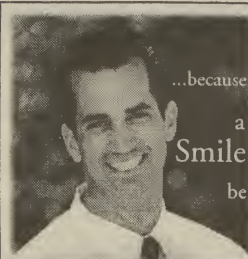
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and the rise of conversion to condominiums, not affordable to 88 percent of the city's families, as reported in the daily newspapers. Further, the immediate crisis is compounded by the huge rent increases facing evicted tenants when forced to search for new, comparable rentals. Leno fails to address these issues and fails as well to question the ethical justification for the amount of rent being demanded by landlords in this "market" when rent rates are compared to these same landlords' actual expenses. Continuously we are lectured about the handful of high-income, "low-rent" tenants but never are we provided the truth about the clearly growing wealth of most landlords because of vacancy decontrol.

What is needed is a ban on Ellis Act evictions, a severe limit on condo (TIC) conversions, the establishment of vacancy control, and a massive city-developed program of limited-equity cooperative housing built on what available land exists rather than Leno's "market"-driven proposal accompanied by a handful of allegedly "affordable" units. The housing priority for San Francisco should be the city's existing residents, particularly the 88 percent who cannot currently afford to purchase, rather than opening the floodgates announcing to the dot-com invaders that housing is available and doing nothing to stop speculative, e-commerce development of highly questionable necessity. Are this city's current residents expected to be the fodder and victims of this profligacy? That will be the continuing consequence of Leno's proposal if allowed to go through.

Alan Collins
San Francisco

Supé Katz will be missed

It is with much sadness that the members of the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian & Gay Democratic Club received the news from Supervisor Leslie Katz that she would not seek re-election to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. We have strongly supported her past elections to the Democratic County Central Committee, Community College Board and the Board of Supervisors. We have watched with great pride as she has tackled many challenging city issues, especially when she stood up to the nationally organized religious right.

Leslie has crafted legislation and worked out solutions that have improved our quality of life and that have created history: our landmark equal benefits ordinance is just one example. She will be greatly missed.

What kind of a statement is it that, Supervisor Katz, a young, single, professional woman who is a homeowner and has a law degree, cannot financially afford to continue her service as a San Francisco supervisor? How many of us could when the job only pays \$37,585? This issue is especially sensitive to women and lesbians in particular, who typically earn less than their male counterparts in the job market. Many of us can hardly afford to live here and we're losing gay men and lesbians in droves as they move to the more affordable suburbs. Now, our political leaders are being displaced by economics as well.

What kind of impact will this have on the diversity and the philosophy of our Board of Supervisors? Currently there are five women on the board. Sue Bierman and Barbara Kaufman are being forced out by term limits. Leslie Katz cannot afford to work full as time supervisor and give up another full-time salary to do so. That leaves Mabel Teng and Alicia Becerril. They are both running for re-election, and Becerril faces a crowded field of strong challengers. Could we soon have a board that is comprised of only one or two women supervisors?

This is an issue that affects us all. We as a city really need to consider this, and give our hard-working supervisors the raise that they deserve. It's a full-time job. And they do the work of city council members and county supervisors combined, yet they are the lowest paid of each of these categories in all of California.

We expect a lot out of our local elected officials, but we don't give them much in return. Not only are their salaries very low, but they rarely get the respect or the acknowledgment they deserve for their work and dedication.

Maybe when the media and columnists start to portray our board members in a fair light and begin to acknowledge their good work, instead of ridiculing and devaluing their contributions every time they disagree with an issue or vote ... well, maybe the rest of us will pass the legislation needed to give them the fair wages they deserve.

If we do not pay supervisors a salary that enables them to live in this most expensive of cities, will we wind up with a Board of Supervisors who are able to serve because of their wealth or by luck of circumstance? What kind of representation would that create?

The gay and lesbian community, the Jewish community, the women of San Francisco and the entire city of San Francisco have lost an advocate and the services of a proud, thoughtful, hard-working cham-

pion. We wish Supervisor Katz the best of luck in all of her future pursuits and look forward to working with her in other aspects of her community life.

Esther Lee and Dean Goodwin, Co-chairs
Alice B. Toklas Lesbian & Gay Democratic Club

GLAAD's transphobia exposed

Dear so-called Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, God, I am so sickened that you have cowered away from condemning the anti-transgendered hate piece in the *Advocate*. What a bunch of fucking hypocrites. It just goes to show that we cannot trust national organizations that are full of opportunists, profiteers, and free-loaders who are more concerned with climbing social ladders and having exclusive dinners with celebrities than speaking out against bigotry. Your silence around this issue betrays all of us. How dare you condemn Dr. Laura and say nothing about Norah Vincent. As if hatred against transgendered people is nothing, but watch out if some Dr. Laura says something hateful about all of you arrogant and smug gays and lesbians. As a gay man, your silence and cowardliness sickens me. You are worse than the Catholic Church in Nazi Germany. GLAAD, you are fired!

Kevin Weaver
San Francisco

Disagrees with concepts

I read with interest Terry Beswick's article published in your July 6 edition [*"Migden: No more DP rights this year"*]. However, I respectfully question three concepts implied in his article. Those concepts are as follows:

The number of people registering as domestic partners has been disappointingly low and this is making it hard to get new domestic partner bills passed.

The state Legislature will enact no new domestic partner legislation this year mainly because the Democrats fear the passage of such legislation would anger the voters.

We should just be patient with our elected officials and next year they will pass significant new domestic partner rights bills.

With respect, for most people there is little reason to register as domestic partners. In most cases, the only right gained by registering is the right to visit domestic partners in the hospital. Hospital visitation is not a big problem here in California. Many in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community are still fearful of publicly declaring themselves by registering as domestic partners and they will not do so until the rewards outweigh the risks.

I agree that fear of the voters' reactions is the major impediment to getting domestic partner legislation passed this year. However, that thought implies its opposite. Clearly elected officials are not afraid of our community's reaction to their refusal to enact the legislation we need.

I see this as a danger signal. It signals to Democratic politicians, particularly, that we will support them whether or not they support us. In that case, what motivation do they have to support us, now or after the election? If straight voters will be angry when legislators pass LGBT rights bills, and we will not be angry when they don't, why pass such bills at all?

Being pleasant to friendly elected officials is nice, but in the hardball world of real politics it is essential to clearly state there is a price for our community's support.

Boyce Hinman, Administrator
Lambda Letters Project
Carmichael, California

Kramer's letter appreciated

Thank you for printing Larry Kramer's letter [June 29]. His eloquent indictment of the destructive lunacy and misinformation on the part of AIDS denialists was sorely needed.

The revisionism coming from these groups, especially the opportunists that lead them, is particularly onerous to those of us that know how false it is yet are forced to watch while leaders like South Africa's president pay heed. I recommend to anyone (especially those of you under 30), read, *And the Band Played On* by Randy Shilts. This book is one of several reliable sources that gives the real history of an unfortunately very real epidemic.

Charles Heller
Phoenix, Arizona

Pope's speech

After the Rome gay march, the pope delivered a speech saying that gay sex is unnatural and offensive. That's like someone who believes the earth is flat giving a lecture on geography. I guess we shouldn't expect much more from the Vatican. The odd thing, though, is that so many gay men and lesbians continue to call themselves Catholics in the face of constant humiliation from the hierarchy. That's like being a member of the masochistic caucus of the Flat Earth Society.

Arthur Evans
San Francisco

HISTORY LESSON

What is the history of the Advocate?

by Wik Wikholm

Today, the *Advocate* coexists comfortably with its neighbors on most American newsstands. Politicians and celebrities anxious to be interviewed grace its cover and its pages are loaded with the same advertising that supports *Esquire*, *Cosmopolitan*, and *Vanity Fair*. But when it first appeared in 1967, it had a grittier look.

That first edition was the brainchild of two members of Los Angeles-based Pride, one of many short-lived gay activist organizations that flourished during the late 1960s. Dick Michaels and his lover Bill Rand worked on Pride's publications committee, and spent the summer of 1967 deciding how to improve the organization's newsletter. In September, the result was the *Los Angeles Advocate*, a 12-page amalgamation of news, opinion, and classified ads laid out with a typewriter, with 500 copies printed on cheap 8 1/2 by 11-inch stock. In spite of its dismal quality, the paper sold well, and in early 1968, Michaels and Rand bought it from Pride. By summer, advertising revenue from Los Angeles bars, restaurants, and personal ads produced enough income to allow Michaels and Rand to quit their day jobs and work full-time on the paper.

The quality of the paper's articles was as uneven as the printing, but the *Los Angeles Advocate* had a clear voice. Reflecting its roots in militant activism, the editorial style was brash and pro-sex with nude or nearly nude men on many early covers. Four-letter words and honest descriptions of sex acts peppered articles that ranged across a wide spectrum of gay interest. Topics like tips on

how to avoid police entrapment ran side by side with lifestyle pieces about movie stars and male fashion, and Michaels faithfully reported every tidbit about the gay liberation movement he could find.

In 1969, Michaels and Rand renamed the paper the *Advocate* and began national distribution. By 1974, press runs routinely ran to 40,000 copies, enough to attract the attention of a wealthy suitor from San Francisco named

David Goodstein.

Goodstein was an investment banker who had been fired by his employer when they discovered he was gay.

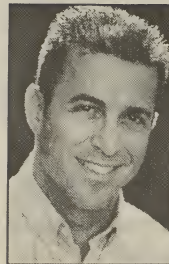
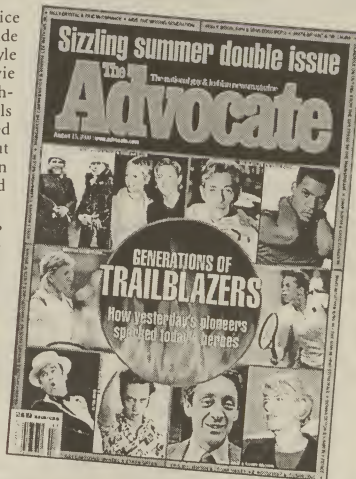
Enraged by his termination, Goodstein resolved to use his money to support the movement, and the *Advocate* seemed a good way to do it. When he approached Michaels and Rand with an attractive offer, they agreed to sell. Goodstein moved the paper's offices to San Francisco and invested hundreds of thousands of dollars transforming the *Advocate* into a more professional product.

Goodstein was an improbable publisher for a militant newspaper. Most California activists were allied with left-wing politics, so when a millionaire took over their *Advocate*, many were appalled. A rift developed, and Goodstein's personality made it worse. Accustomed to the trappings of power, he often treated his critics harshly, and many, including gay San

Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk, were barely willing to talk to him. Goodstein didn't seem to care, but in 1983, he and the *Advocate* were stung by criticism of the paper's coverage of the emerging AIDS crisis. In the *New York Native*, AIDS activist Larry Kramer blasted the gay press, especially the *Advocate*, for ignoring the growing AIDS epidemic and failing to push gay men towards safer-sex techniques. Some publications ignored Kramer's broadside, but the *Advocate* recommended condoms the next month and has maintained a high level of AIDS reporting ever since.

In 1984, Goodstein moved the paper back to Los Angeles, where it is still headquartered, but he succumbed to bowel cancer a year later. Without Goodstein's leadership, the paper drifted and many readers feared its best days were behind it. But the *Advocate* was roused from sleep in the early

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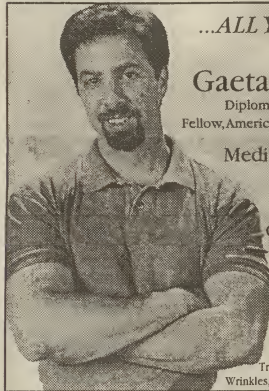

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Porridge was just right

by Jane Warner

400 block of Castro, July 13, 4 p.m.: A woman came home from vacation to find several items that did not belong to her neatly arranged about the house. About a half an hour later, a strange woman walked through the door. Startled, the resident called the police. The trespasser explained that she entered by breaking the back window and that she had permission from the resident's sister to stay there. The resident's sister had never heard of the woman. Cited for trespassing was Lynn Thompson, 22.

Love makes a family

Dolores and 14th, July 14, 1:30 p.m.: While driving down Dolores, two men who had been dating started arguing about money. Pulling over, one of the men threatened, "If you don't leave me alone about the money I owe you, I'll bump you off." The man then hit his companion in the face with the car's ashtray and struck him three times in the chest with a briefcase. The other man fought back. A passerby called police, but when they arrived the suspect—described as Eastern Indian, 44 years old, wearing a dress shirt and slacks—had already fled the scene. The victim, suffering from cuts and bruises, declined medical treatment.

Daddy's boy

Beck's Motor Lodge, 2222 Market Street, July 14, 12:30 p.m.: A man who was staying at the hotel left his room to do some sight seeing, but

forgot to close his window. A short time later, the desk clerk saw a strange man crawl through the open window. The clerk called the room, and the suspect answered, giving the registered guest's last name and explaining he was his son. The clerk then saw the man leave with a big bag. When the hotel guest returned, he discovered his camera, cell phone, and laptop computer were missing. The hotel guest told police he does not have a son. Suspect is described as a white male, 5 feet 10 inches tall, weighing 160 pounds, wearing a white T-shirt, jeans, and a red baseball cap.

Restroom capers

Orphan Andy's, 3991 17th Street, July 15, 12:30 a.m.: A man who had been warned numerous times to stay out of the restaurant locked himself in the restroom and refused to come out. After several knocks from patrons in line, the restaurant manager called police. Responding officers, much to the relief of waiting customers, finally coaxed the man out and the suspect was arrested without incident. Booked for trespassing and being drunk in public was Fred Giolli, 40.

Cover charge

Pendulum bar, 4146 18th, July 14, 12:10 a.m.: A man who had a history of stealing tips off the bar and hustling customers was noticed by the bartender loitering in the doorway. When told to move

on, the suspect screamed obscenities and spit on the bartender's shoe. The suspect then pulled a buck knife and waved it in the bartender's face, telling him, "I'll cut you, bitch. I'll kill you." Patrons intervened and the suspect left the area. Responding police found the suspect in Collingwood Park. Booked for terrorist threats and brandishing a knife was Dana Curry, 21.

Superfag

Smoke Plus,
4059 18th, July 13,
12:05 a.m.: A
young man came

into the cigar shop at closing time and asked for a carton of Marlboro cigarettes. When the owner put the carton on the counter, the thief grabbed it and ran out the door. The owner got into his car and drove around looking for him. The owner saw the suspect in the parking lot of Everett Middle School, changing clothes. The suspect fled. When they reached the intersection of Church and 17th, the owner caught up to the culprit and grabbed him by the hair. The suspect screamed, "These are my cigarettes, you fucking faggot." The owner repeatedly punched and kicked the thief until he released the goods. Described as a white male, 5 feet 5 inches tall, weighing 160 pounds, with thick curly hair, blue eyes, wearing a black jacket, tan pants, and bleeding from a broken nose, the suspect was last seen limping east-bound on Church Street. ▼



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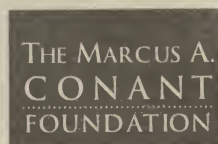
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AIDS conference concludes in Durban

by Bob Roehr

Nelson Mandela, the former president of South Africa, electrified the closing session of the 13th International Conference on AIDS last Friday, July 14 with his mere presence. He entered to a sustained standing ovation, complete with cries in Zulu and other dialects of the region, and chants from the struggle to end apartheid.

He looked frail but his ringing voice belied his 82 years and offered a capstone of hope that the attendees had been seeking. "If 27 years in prison have done anything to us, it was to use the silence of solitude to make us understand how precious words are and how real speech is in its impact upon the way people live or die," said Mandela on the conference theme of "Break the Silence."

He did not directly mention the controversy surrounding President Thabo Mbeki's embrace of AIDS denialists or the substance of those issues, both of which dominated discussion and news coverage of the conference. Mandela called them a distraction "from the real life and death issues." He praised Mbeki several times during the course of his speech.

Mandela said that "the ordinary people" and especially "the

poor who bear a disproportionate burden of this scourge ... wish that the dispute about the primacy of politics or science be put on the back burner and that we proceed to address the needs and concerns of those suffering and dying. And this can only be done in a partnership."

He called upon the tradition of collective leadership in Africa. "In the face of the grave threat posed by HIV/AIDS, we have to rise above our differences and combine our efforts to save our people," he said. "History will judge us harshly if we fail to do so now, and right now."

Mandela outlined the need for programs that work to "banish stigma and discrimination," prevent new infections, offer treatment, and support the survivors. He specifically supported "measures to reduce mother-to-child transmission," an action resisted by the South African government. Those words generated one of the many bursts of applause.

"Others will not save us if we do not primarily commit ourselves," said Mandela, but that did not negate the need for support and alliances both within societies and from without. He concluded, "Let us combine our efforts to ensure a future for our children."

"You cannot imagine how your speech is music to our ears," said

conference chair Jerry Coodavia. "It has answered so many unspoken and spoken questions on our lips. It has filled the torment in our hearts." He pledged, on behalf of scientists, that they would do their part.

Assessing the conference

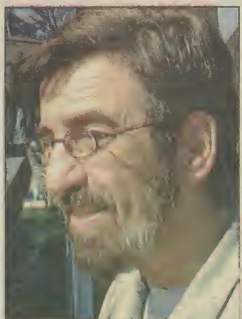
"I've been coming to this meeting since 1988 and this is by far the best International AIDS Conference that I've ever been to," said David Barr, an AIDS advocate from New York. "It is the first time that a whole new set of issues have been raised concerning how health care is provided." That includes the roles of industry, government, and "what things cost."



AIDS journalist Laurie Garrett

Pulitzer Prize-winning AIDS journalist Laurie Garrett called the conference "a huge turning point" in dealing with "access to care, inequity in north-south relations, the whole agenda of how can HAART [highly active antiretroviral therapy] get to everybody."

"There is clear evidence of a major political shift," said Bill Arnold, with the ADAP Working Group in Washington, D.C. "Clearly industry has gone through a whole bunch of behind closed doors type decisions" about how they are going to meet the call for access to therapy for the poorer nations.



Boston activist David Scondras

"It was tremendously important to come here and see the face of AIDS as it affects most of the world," said David Scondras, a Boston activist who also was appointed by President Mbeki and serves on the South African AIDS Commission. He is encouraged by the movement to forge the types of partnerships of government, industry, and community people necessary to confront the epidemic. "When we chose South Africa, many, many expressed their concerns, particularly those who are not with us today," said Stefano Vella, incoming president of the

page 16 ►

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POLITICS

Veep guessing game on; debates being debated

by Wayne Friday

With the Republican National Convention set to open in Philadelphia in less than two weeks (July 31), followed a couple of weeks later by the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles, the guessing game as to whom presumptive nominees Republican **George W. Bush** and Democrat **Al Gore** will choose as their vice presidential running mates reached a fever pitch this week within the organizations of both parties as well as in the national media.

A few weeks ago, Bush suggested that he might actually name his choice for vice president a couple of days before the start of the GOP convention, but this week Bush was saying he remained undecided on whether he would announce his decision before the four-day confab. Whenever he finally announces, those close to Bush were saying this week that only he, his wife, **Laura**, and former Defense Secretary **Dick Cheney**, who's heading the veep search, have any idea of who the Texas governor was deciding on, but that the so-called short list had apparently been narrowed down to Pennsylvania Governor **Tom Ridge**, a conservative-to-moderate pro-choice Catholic; Oklahoma Governor **Frank Keating**, also a Catholic but who is strongly anti-abortion, very conservative, and some would say, a near clone of Bush himself; Nebraska U.S. Senator **Chuck Hagel**, a conservative decorated war veteran; and further down the list, former Cabinet member **Elizabeth Dole**, once a GOP presidential candidate herself.

If Bush chooses anyone other than these four, it would be considered a last minute surprise by the Texas governor.

As for Gore and his vice presidential choice, a much similar guessing game is the emphasis of the week. Gore, in an unprecedented move, hinted that he might announce his Democratic running mate immediately after the GOP convention, hoping to dim the post-convention bounce for Bush and his veep choice. Bush is slated to accept the Republican nomination in an evening address to the GOP delegates on Thursday, August 3, the final night of the Philadelphia confab, but Gore apparently plans to be busily campaigning with his vice presidential partner by that same weekend.

The Gore strategy, unusual though it may be, would give Gore the chance to quickly recapture the spotlight without having to wait until the Democrats meet in Los Angeles on August 14 for their convention. Though candidates have in the past usually saved their running mates until their party's conventions to prolong the drama, that tradition has changed in recent years. In 1992, **Bill Clinton** announced Al Gore as his running mate in Little Rock a couple of days before the convention and four years later, Republican **Bob Dole** copied the idea by announcing **Jack Kemp** as his veep choice a couple of days before the GOP convention.

As with Bush, campaign aides to

Gore were adamant this week that no decision had been made by the vice president as to who his running mate would be, but some close to the Gore campaign admitted that the choice had pretty much narrowed down to four men: Massachusetts U.S. Senator **John Kerry**, Florida U.S. Senator **Bob Graham**, former U.S. Senator **George Mitchell** of Maine, or Representative **Richard Gephardt**, the House minority leader.

Though Gephardt's name remained this week as a "serious possibility" for vice president, aides to the Missouri congressman were telling reporters that Gephardt had told Gore he preferred to remain in the House in hopes of becoming the next speaker, should the Democrats regain control of the next Congress.

One other possibility being spoken of among leading Democratic strategists is California U.S. Senator **Dianne Feinstein**. Should Bush pull a surprise and name a woman such as Elizabeth Dole as his running mate, then Gore would in all likelihood turn to Feinstein as his vice presidential pick.

Debating the debates

The Commission on Presidential Debates has scheduled three presidential debates to be held in Boston; Winston-Salem, North Carolina; and St. Louis with one vice presidential debate in Danville, Kentucky, all to take place between October 3-17. The debate commission, naturally, is being bombarded by demands from numerous minor party candidates that they be included in the debates.

Ralph Nader, the multimillionaire, lifelong, consumer advocate nominee of the Green Party, and **Pat Buchanan**, the equally wealthy presumptive nominee of the Reform Party, are protesting the loudest, followed by **Harry Browne** of the Libertarian Party, and whoever manages to get their name listed on at least a single state ballot – the Socialist Party, Taxpayers Party, Peace and Freedom Party, you get the idea.

At any rate, the commission's standard for being included in the debates is: if a candidate is getting 15 percent or more in an average of five major national polls, he or she and his or her running mate will then be included in the debates. Will Nader, Buchanan, Browne, or any of the others make into the presidential debates? Not likely. Given where these minor candidates now stand in the polls, all would be excluded, and in the big picture of things, that's probably good since Nader is seemingly bent on destroying Gore and Buchanan has the same thing in mind for Bush. Frankly, a vote for Nader, Buchanan, or any of the other political wannabes is a wasted vote, and anyone who thinks otherwise should get a taste of political reality. The next president of the will be either Gore or Bush and the three debates could well determine which of the two it will be.

Politics and people

Friends and supporters of Board of Supes President **Tom Amiano** will help him kick off his reelection campaign (District 9) on

Thursday, July 27, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the El Rio, 3158 Mission Street (\$35 donation asked; 665-5417 for info).

From what I'm hearing, two openly gay men (both good guys, incidentally), **Hank Wilson** and **Chris Dittenhafer**, could face each other in a December runoff to determine who the next supervisor from District 6 will be.

Mayor **Willie Brown** leads the list of supporters and friends throwing a fundraiser/cocktail party for Assemblyman **Kevin Shelley** at the Fairmont Hotel on Thursday, August 3, 5:30-7:30 p.m. (\$150; 255-8587 for info).

Governor **Gray Davis** told Sacramento insiders that he is leaning toward appointing someone "free of politics and not in elective office" as the state's next insurance commissioner to replace former Commissioner **Chuck Quackenbush**, and that seems to pretty much exclude the chances of state Senator **Jackie Speier** (D-Hillsborough), one of the most qualified legislators in Sacto, and known to be interested in the position.

As for the disgraced Quackenbush – no sooner had he cleaned out his office than the George W. Bush presidential folks quickly dropped his name from their official Web site of "leading California Republicans" endorsing the Texas governor. However, Secretary of State **Bill Jones** is back on the list after having once deserted the Bush cause to support former GOP candidate **John McCain**. Don't look for Jones, the only statewide elected Republican now in office, to be offered any television time at the GOP convention – the "Bushies" are said to have "long memories."

Meanwhile, though several polls continue to look promising for the GOP nominee, some within the Republican Party are said to be getting nervous at possible overconfidence. While Bush, his campaign aides, and most Republican officials across the country continue to be confident, they worry about complacency, based partly on Bush's continued strong showing in polls. Some Republican strategists say it is inevitable that Bush's lead in these polls will shrink or evaporate when voters begin paying closer attention to the race and some GOP campaign officials openly acknowledge anxiety about how Bush and his closest people would handle that. Indeed, one Eastern state GOP chairperson told reporters that "I'm truly worried about Al Gore; those who surround Bush are far too confident – Gore is very good at this game; he'll find a way..."

In Jackson, Mississippi, the American Civil Liberties Union says it is close to suing over a new state law that bans gay couples from adopting children. The plaintiffs would be a couple who say a lawsuit may be their only chance to become parents. Mississippi, Florida, and Utah ban judges from allowing gay couples to adopt children.

I've never been a particular fan of television's **Bryant Gumbel**, but I have to hand it to him for recently interviewing the Family Research Council's anti-gay **Robert Knight**, who had lauded the U.S. Supreme Court for its anti-gay Boy Scout decision. Among other things, Gumbel was caught unknowingly quipping into an open microphone about the bigoted FRC spokesman:

next page ►

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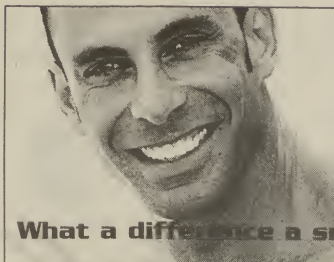
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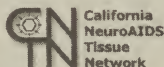
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You will receive \$25 for the initial screening visit. If you are enrolled into the study, a \$125 payment is available to you upon completion of your first assessment. At each follow-up assessment you will receive up to \$175. You can also designate a person or organization of your choice to receive \$100 if an autopsy is completed.



You can change the future for people living with HIV/AIDS. Science can help.

SFGH/UCSF Dr. Richard W. Price (415)
206-3207 or (415) 206-4328

Fighting heterosexism

by Paula Martinac

Lesbians and gay men toss the term "homophobia" around a lot, sometimes inaccurately. It literally means a fear or dread of homosexuals, something that gay bashers and some religious fundamentalists harbor, but many straight people don't. What they actually do harbor are heterosexist assumptions, which can be just as harmful to lesbians and gay men.

While homophobia makes gay people the focal point of attention, heterosexism does the opposite — it renders us completely invisible. When it's institutionalized, this kind of obliviousness is hard to

fight, because even when it's exposed, many straight people take the cowardly route and ignore it to avoid controversy. As a consequence, we have to check off "single" on our taxes, on credit applications, and on other official forms, regardless of how long we've been with our partners. And we're routinely denied the same healthcare benefits for our partners that our straight married coworkers enjoy.

Heterosexism also determines what we learn and don't learn from the media. During the recent U.N. Women 2000 conference in New York, ABC News anchor Peter Jennings profiled organizer Charlotte Bunch, who received a humanitarian award this year from President Clinton while Hillary looked on, beaming. Jennings' report acknowledged Bunch as one of the leaders of the global women's movement, someone Gloria Steinem herself turns to when she's stumped by an issue.

You may already know that Bunch is a longtime, out lesbian-feminist activist and theorist. But if you didn't know that, you would have never learned it from the ABC report. Jennings glided over her life from babyhood to the present as if there had been nothing in between, leaving viewers free to assume that Bunch is straight. You might see this as homophobia, but Jennings may have assumed that Bunch's sexual orientation either wasn't important enough for a brief profile or else could be controversial. The omission is particularly offensive if you consider that the U.N. conference, which Bunch was instrumental in organizing, haggled over sexual orien-

tation before failing to include the term in its 150-page platform on women's rights.

Combating this kind of heterosexism is what the organized lesbian and gay movement does. The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, for example, is vigilant at pointing out when media coverage of gay people and events is homophobic, inaccurate, or nonexistent.

But resisting more mundane forms of heterosexism is a job that all of us have to take on. Many times, our efforts actually work. Not long ago, I filled out a form for my graduate school's alumni directory. In the blank for "spouse" I wrote in my partner's distinctly female name. However, when the

proof of my entry came in the mail for my approval, I was listed as "single;" someone had decided I couldn't have a female spouse. I wrote the alumni association a furious letter detailing what had happened. To my surprise, the president wrote back apologizing and informing me that the association would, in the future, change its forms to include "domestic partner."

Granted, college alumni directories aren't that important. The experience I just related is on a par with, say, a gay man having to deal with a telemarketer who requests to speak to "the lady of the house." Or how about a lesbian mother being repeatedly asked, "And what does your husband do for a living?" These are annoyances you could either confront or shrug off, depending on the kind of day you're having.

But heterosexist assumptions can be more than just an annoyance. Consider another example with more serious ramifications. All too frequently, the medical questionnaire that gynecologists

require their patients to fill out asks, "What kind of birth control do you use?" If a woman leaves it blank because she's a lesbian, the doctor will press her in person for an answer. Lesbians have to deal with this question by either coming out on the spot or, if we're afraid to be honest, fudging the truth and compromising our medical care.

Consider how much better it would be for all patients, lesbian and straight, if the question read: "If you use birth control, what kind?" That simple rearrangement of words could make a huge difference in the kind of relationship lesbians have with their doctors and consequently in the health care they receive.

Recently, I found a Web site put together by a couple of very smart lesbians in Newfoundland who are dedicated to eradicating all types of heterosexism, from the annoying to the harmful. Called "The Heterosexism Enquirer," their site (www.mun.ca/the) is an elaborate spoof of the tabloid the *National Enquirer* and boasts a lot of humorous headlines and photos. But it also includes extremely useful articles and an extensive bibliography about the effects of straight privilege on quality of life issues like healthcare.

Pass the URL along to some of your straight colleagues and family members; they'll get a laugh out of it, but they'll learn some things, too. Then pick up a pen and write a letter to a business, doctor, organization, or service that has made heterosexist assumptions about you. Unfortunately, it won't be hard for you to come up with one. ▼

Paula Martinac is the author of seven books. She can be reached care of this publication or at LNcolumn@aol.com. For more Lesbian Notions, visit www.planetout.com.

Our Man Friday

◀ previous page

"what a f—— idiot!"

Finally, in place of a "Quote of the Week," I'd like to reprint a few lines from one of my favorite columnists, the *Examiner's* Stephanie Salter (who I don't know personally but have met several times) on writing about returning after a recent trip to the city she loves, pointing out the good and the bad: "The dirt. The

incompetence. The arrogance of the young rich. The desolation of the street-bound poor. Billboards screaming from every available wall. The noise, the disappearing views, the grinding traffic, the overall feeling of dangerous imbalance. I may not be moved to tears every time my plane lands these days, and it may take me a little longer to remember why, but the truth is — lucky, clever me; I still believe I live in the greatest city in the whole New World."

And how was your week? ▼

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Take your medicine VIRACEPT is easy to live with. Take it two or three times a day (according to your doctor's instructions) with your normal meals or light snacks.

Every dose. Every day.™ VIRACEPT works. It is indicated for the treatment of HIV infection when anti-HIV drug therapy is warranted. It is not yet known whether taking VIRACEPT will help you live longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that can occur with HIV.

Plan ahead Learn how your treatment plan helps you fight HIV. Take an active role in designing your treatment plan along with your healthcare provider. Ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist how VIRACEPT can be part of your strategy for long-term management of HIV.

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tablets and oral powder

**NOW VIRACEPT MAY BE
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Things you should know about VIRACEPT VIRACEPT is generally well tolerated. People treated with VIRACEPT may experience some side effects; the most common is diarrhea. Diarrhea of moderate or severe intensity occurred in about one out of five people in clinical trials.

Some common medications and some HIV-related medications should not be taken with VIRACEPT. Protease inhibitors, including VIRACEPT, may interact with cholesterol-lowering drugs. Talk to your doctor about any prescription or non-prescription drugs you are

taking. For some people, protease inhibitors have been associated with the onset or worsening of diabetes mellitus and hyperglycemia, changes in the distribution or accumulation of body fat, and increased bleeding in patients with hemophilia. For more information, call toll free 1-888-VIRACEPT or visit www.viracept.com. (Refer to the important information on the next page.)

*IMS Health National Prescription Audit™ data for PIs and NNRTIs, 01/00–03/00.

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VIRACEPT

nelfinavir mesylate

Tablets and Oral Powder

Information for Patients About VIRACEPT® (VI-ra-cept)
Generic Name: nelfinavir (nel-FIN-na-veer) mesylate

For the Treatment of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection
Please read this information carefully before taking VIRACEPT. Also, please read this leaflet each time you renew the prescription, just in case anything has changed. This is a summary and not a replacement for a careful discussion with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss VIRACEPT when you start taking this medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when taking VIRACEPT and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

What is VIRACEPT and how does it work?

VIRACEPT is used in the treatment of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Infection with HIV leads to the destruction of CD4 T cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD4 cells have been destroyed, the infected person develops acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. You should be aware, however, that the effect of VIRACEPT on HIV in the blood has not been correlated with long-term health benefits. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in the number of CD4 cell count.

VIRACEPT is usually taken together with other antiretroviral drugs such as Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT), EpiVir® (lamivudine, 3TC), or Zert® (stavudine, d4T). Taking VIRACEPT in combination with other antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV in the body (viral load) and raises CD4 counts.

VIRACEPT may be taken by adults, adolescents, and children 2 years of age or older. Studies in infants younger than 2 years of age are now taking place.

Does VIRACEPT cure HIV or AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of VIRACEPT are not known at this time. People taking VIRACEPT may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, Mycobacterium avium complex (MAC) infections, and Kaposi's sarcoma.

It is not known whether VIRACEPT will help you live longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that may occur.

There is no proof that VIRACEPT can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Who should or should not take VIRACEPT?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIRACEPT is appropriate for you. In making your decision, the following should be considered:

Allergies: If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT. You should also be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. **Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.**

If you are pregnant: The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

If you are breast-feeding: You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. **Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.**

Children: VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

If you have liver disease: VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

Other medical problems: Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Some people taking protease inhibitors have developed new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Some people with hemophilia have had increased bleeding. It is not known whether the protease inhibitors caused these problems. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking protease inhibitors. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs and arms may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

Can VIRACEPT be taken with other medications?

VIRACEPT may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. You must discuss with your doctor any drugs that you are taking or are planning to take before you take VIRACEPT.

Drugs you should not take with VIRACEPT:

- Hismanal® (astemizole, for allergies)
- Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)
- Cordarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)
- Quinidine® (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglate®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex®, and others
- Ergot derivatives (Cafergot® and others, for migraine headaches)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Versed® (midazolam)

Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events.

- Rifampin® (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®

This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with:

- Mycobutin® (rifabutin, for MAC), you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

A change of therapy should be considered if you are taking VIRACEPT with:

- Phenobarbital
- Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
- Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.

- Oral contraceptives ("the pill")

If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

Special considerations

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with VIRACEPT, talk to your doctor about possible drug interactions and side effects. If you take Viagra and VIRACEPT together, you may be at increased risk of side effects of Viagra such as low blood pressure, visual changes, and penile erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, you should seek immediate medical assistance to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

It is not recommended to take VIRACEPT with the cholesterol-lowering drugs Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zorcor® (simvastatin) because of possible drug interactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between VIRACEPT and Lipitor® (atorvastatin) and Baycol® (cerivastatin); talk to your doctor before you take either of these cholesterol-reducing drugs with VIRACEPT.

How should VIRACEPT be taken with other anti-HIV drugs?

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines. These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

Nucleoside analogues: No drug interaction problems were seen when VIRACEPT was given with:

- Retrovir (zidovudine, AZT)
- EpiVir (lamivudine, 3TC)
- Zert (stavudine, d4T)
- Videx® (didanosine, ddi)

If you are taking both Videx (ddi) and VIRACEPT:

Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Viramune® (nevirapine)
The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be reduced. Studies are now taking place to learn about the safety of combining VIRACEPT with Viramune.

Sustiva® (efavirenz)
The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Sustiva.

Other NNRTIs

VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Crixivan® (indinavir)
The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Norvir® (ritonavir)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Invirase® (saquinavir)

The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

What are the side effects of VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 14-20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily or 1250 mg (five tablets) two times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using anti-diarrheal medicines, such as Imodium® A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include abdominal pain, asthenia, nausea, flatulence, and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

How should I take VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. Your doctor may prescribe the light blue VIRACEPT Tablets either as 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or as 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack.

Take VIRACEPT exactly as directed by your doctor. Do not increase or decrease any dose or the number of doses per day. Also, take this medicine for the exact period of time that your doctor has instructed. **Do not stop taking VIRACEPT without first consulting with your doctor, even if you are feeling better.**

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIRACEPT to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

The dosing of VIRACEPT may be different for you than for other patients. **Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.** The amount of VIRACEPT in the blood should remain somewhat consistent over time. Missing doses will cause the concentration of VIRACEPT to decrease; therefore, you should not miss any doses. However, if you miss a dose, you should take the dose as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose and future doses as originally scheduled.

Dosing in adults (including children 14 years of age and older)

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

Dosing in children 2 to 13 years of age

The VIRACEPT dose in children depends on their weight. The recommended dose is 20 to 30 mg/kg (or 9 to 14 mg/pound) per dose, taken three times daily with a meal or light snack. This can be administered either in tablet form or, in children unable to take tablets, as VIRACEPT Oral Powder.

Dose instructions will be provided by the child's doctor. The dose will be given three times daily using the measuring scoop provided, a measuring teaspoon, or one or more tablets depending on the weight and age of the child. The amount of oral powder or tablets to be given to a child is described in the chart below.

Pediatric Dose to be Administered Three Times Daily					
Body Weight		Number of Level Scoops†	Number of Level Teaspoons†	Number of Tablets	
Kg	Lb				
7 to <8.5	15.5 to <18.5	4	1	—	
8.5 to <10.5	18.5 to <23	5	1 1/4	—	
10.5 to <12	23 to <26.5	6	1 1/2	—	
12 to <14	26.5 to <31	7	1 3/4	—	
14 to <16	31 to <35	8	2	—	
16 to <18	35 to <39.5	9	2 1/4	—	
18 to <23	39.5 to <50.5	10	2 1/2	2	
≥23	≥50.5	15	3 3/4	3	

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

†1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.

†1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder. Ask your Pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

Do not mix the powder with any acidic foods or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

Once the powder is mixed, it may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 6 hours. Do not heat the mixed dose once it has been prepared.

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

VIRACEPT powder is supplied with a scoop for measuring. For help in determining the exact dose of powder for your child, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener, and therefore should not be taken by children with phenylketonuria (PKU).

How should VIRACEPT be stored?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and stored at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.847.2237) toll free.

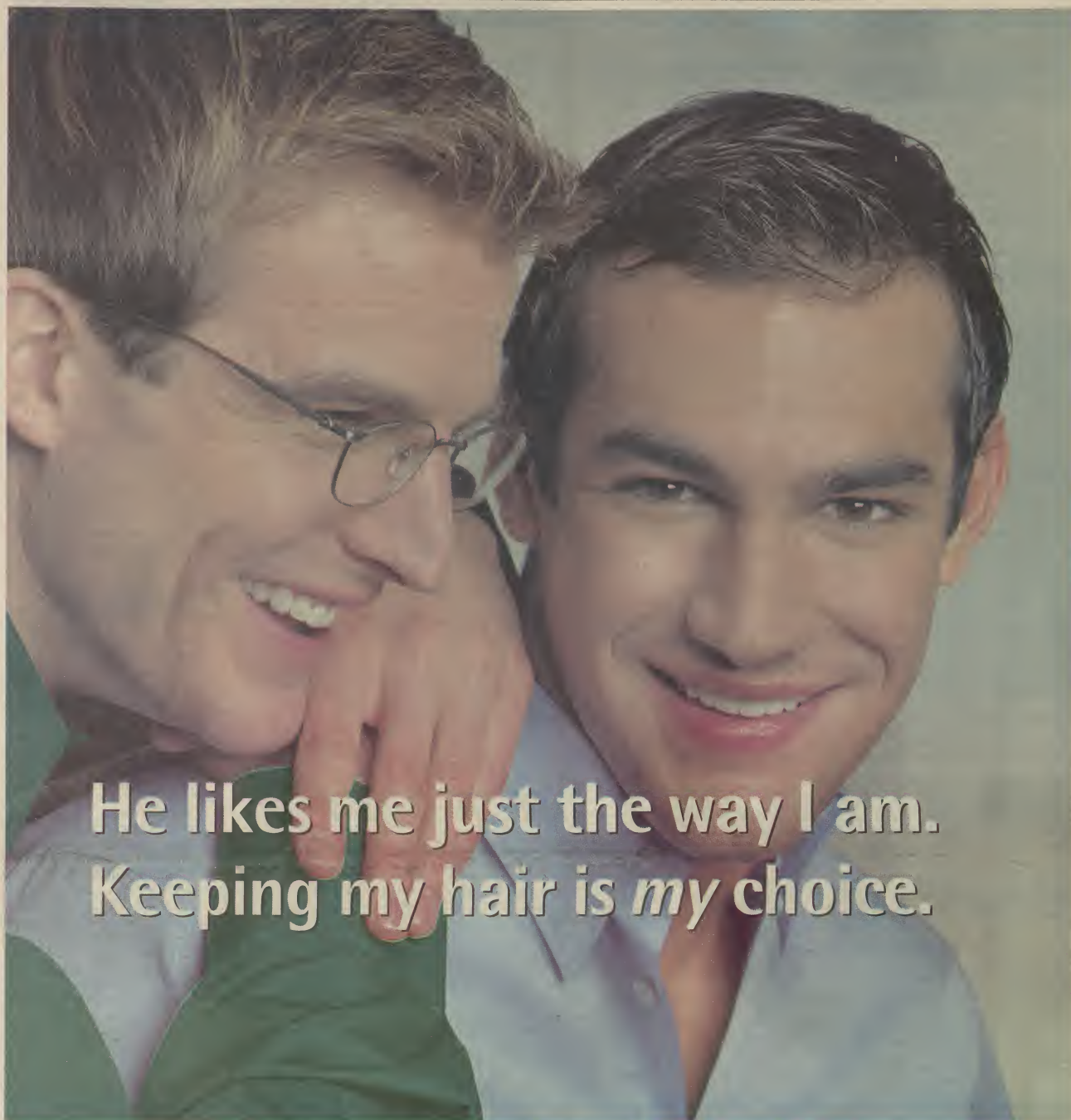
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That's why I use PROPECIA.

PROPECIA is the first and only FDA-approved pill proven to treat male pattern hair loss on the vertex (top of the head) and anterior mid-scalp area in men.

THE NUMBERS

The fact is, for most men, PROPECIA works. The results of 2 years of testing speak for themselves.*

- 5 out of 6 men kept the amount of hair they had (vs. 28% with a sugar pill).
- 2 out of 3 men grew back some of their lost hair (vs. 7% with a sugar pill).

Most men reported an increase in the amount of hair, a decrease in hair loss, and improvement in appearance. And the vast majority of men on PROPECIA were rated as improved by doctors (80% vs. 47% with a sugar pill).

*Based on vertex studies at 2 years of men 18 to 41 with mild to moderate hair loss. There is not evidence that PROPECIA works for receding hairlines at the temples.

THE MOST COMMON SIDE EFFECTS

Clinical tests showed PROPECIA was very well tolerated. Only a very small number of men had some sexual side effects, with each occurring in less than 2% of men. They included less desire for sex, difficulty in achieving an erection, and a decrease in the amount of semen. When the men who had these side effects stopped taking PROPECIA, the side effects went away.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION YOU SHOULD KNOW

PROPECIA is for men only. Women who are or may potentially be pregnant must not use PROPECIA because of the risk that the active ingredient may cause a specific kind of birth defect. (See accompanying Patient Product Information for details.) Likewise, they should avoid handling the tablets when they're crushed or broken. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling.

WHEN YOU COULD SEE RESULTS

Take PROPECIA daily and you could see results in as little as three months. If you stop taking it, however, your results will gradually go away over twelve months. And if it hasn't worked in twelve months, it is unlikely to be of benefit.

For more information, call 1-888-637-2548 or visit our website at www.propecia.com/info.

PROPECIA is available by prescription only, **so the best thing to do is talk to your doctor.**

Know the facts. Many men do, which is probably why over 30,000 prescriptions for PROPECIA are filled each week.**

Please read the next page for additional information about PROPECIA.

**Weekly prescription data, 01/08/99 to 01/21/00, from IMS Health National Prescription Audit Plus 7™.

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Propecia® (Finasteride) Tablets

Patient Information about PROPECIA®
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PROPECIA™ is for use by MEN ONLY.

Please read this leaflet before you start taking PROPECIA. Also, read the information included with PROPECIA each time you renew your prescription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this leaflet does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss PROPECIA when you start taking your medication and at regular checkups.

What is PROPECIA used for?

PROPECIA is used for the treatment of male pattern hair loss on the vertex and the anterior mid-scalp area. PROPECIA is for use by **MEN ONLY** and should **NOT** be used by women or children.

What is male pattern hair loss?

Male pattern hair loss is a common condition in which men experience thinning of the hair on the scalp. Often, this results in a receding hairline and/or balding on the top of the head. These changes typically begin gradually in men in their 20s. Doctors believe male pattern hair loss is due to heredity and is dependent on hormonal effects. Doctors refer to this type of hair loss as androgenetic alopecia.

Results of clinical studies:

For 12 months, doctors studied over 1800 men aged 18 to 41 with mild to moderate amounts of ongoing hair loss. All men, whether receiving PROPECIA or placebo (a pill containing no medication) were given a medicated shampoo (Neutrogena T/Gel™ Shampoo). Of these men, approximately 1200 with hair loss at the top of the head were studied for an additional 12 months. In general, men who took PROPECIA maintained or increased the number of visible scalp hairs and noticed improvement in their hair in the first year, with the effect maintained in the second year. Hair counts in men who did not take PROPECIA continued to decrease.

In one study, patients were questioned on the growth of body hair. PROPECIA did not appear to affect hair in places other than the scalp.

Will PROPECIA work for me?

For most men, PROPECIA increases the number of scalp hairs, helping to fill in thin or balding areas of the scalp. Men taking PROPECIA noted a slowing of hair loss during two years of use. Although results will vary, generally you will not be able to grow back all of the hair you have lost. There is not sufficient evidence that PROPECIA works in the treatment of receding hairline in the temporal area on both sides of the head.

Male pattern hair loss occurs gradually over time. On average, healthy hair grows only about half an inch each month. Therefore, it will take time to see any effect.

You may need to take PROPECIA daily for three months or more before you see a benefit from taking PROPECIA. PROPECIA can only work over the long term if you continue taking it. If the drug has not worked for you in twelve months, further treatment is unlikely to be of benefit. If you stop taking PROPECIA, you will likely lose the hair you have gained within 12 months of stopping treatment. You should discuss this with your doctor.

How should I take PROPECIA?

Follow your doctor's instructions.

- Take one tablet by mouth each day.
- You may take PROPECIA with or without food.
- If you forget to take PROPECIA, do **not** take an extra tablet. Just take the next tablet as usual.

PROPECIA will **not** work faster or better if you take it more than once a day.

Who should **NOT** take PROPECIA?

- PROPECIA is for the treatment of male pattern hair loss in **MEN ONLY** and should not be taken by women or children.
- Anyone allergic to any of the ingredients.

A warning about PROPECIA and pregnancy.

- Women who are or may potentially be pregnant:
— must not use PROPECIA
— should not handle crushed or broken tablets of PROPECIA.

If a woman who is pregnant with a male baby absorbs the active ingredient in PROPECIA, either by swallowing or through the skin, it may cause abnormalities of a male baby's sex organs. If a woman who is pregnant comes into contact with the active ingredient in PROPECIA, a doctor should be consulted. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling, provided that the tablets are not broken or crushed.

What are the possible side effects of PROPECIA?

Like all prescription products, PROPECIA may cause side effects. In clinical studies, side effects from PROPECIA were uncommon and did not affect most men. A small number of men experienced certain sexual side effects. These men reported one or more of the following: less desire for sex; difficulty in achieving an erection; and, a decrease in the amount of semen. Each of these side effects occurred in less than 2% of men. These side effects went away in men who stopped taking PROPECIA. They also disappeared in most men who continued taking PROPECIA.

In general use, the following have been reported infrequently: allergic reactions including rash, itching, hives and swelling of the lips and face; problems with ejaculation; breast tenderness and enlargement; and testicular pain.

Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual side effects.

- PROPECIA can affect a blood test called PSA (Prostate-Specific Antigen) for the screening of prostate cancer. If you have a PSA test done, you should tell your doctor that you are taking PROPECIA.

Storage and handling.

Keep PROPECIA in the original container and keep the container closed. Store it in a dry place at room temperature. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling, provided that the tablets are not broken or crushed.

Do not give your PROPECIA tablets to anyone else. It has been prescribed only for you. Keep PROPECIA and all medications out of the reach of children.

THIS LEAFLET PROVIDES A SUMMARY OF INFORMATION ABOUT PROPECIA. IF AFTER READING THIS LEAFLET YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR ARE NOT SURE ABOUT ANYTHING, ASK YOUR DOCTOR.

1-800-830-7375, Monday through Friday, 8:30 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M. (ET).

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Oakland pot

◀ page 1

served 2,000 regular customers and now can only provide identification cards and referrals. But Breyer's new ruling means that the Oakland club will soon be re-opened for business.

"It was an historic ruling, the first of its kind to grant federal exemption to qualifying patients," Jeff Jones, executive director of OCB, told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "We'll be consulting with our attorneys and then be up and running as soon as possible."

Breyer's written ruling, issued

Monday, July 17, stated that the OCB could distribute cannabis to those club members who 1) suffer from a serious medical condition, 2) will suffer imminent harm if they not have access to cannabis, 3) need cannabis to alleviate medical symptoms, and 4) have no reasonable legal alternative as an effective treatment. Because the guidelines are so specific — particularly the "no legal reasonable alternative" clause — Jones said that the club will be under stricter requirements than most medical marijuana dispensaries and buyer's clubs. But at the very least, qualified Oakland residents who have had to travel for their

treatments will now have another option in their own backyard.

For Jones, the court ruling, in combination with the recently released study that showed pot is safe for HIV-positive people, should be a wake-up call to those at the top of the federal food chain.

"It is now overdue; Washington, D.C. needs to reschedule marijuana as a schedule 3 drug," said Jones, referring to the classification of substances and their subsequent criminal penalties. "The decision is currently before Donna Shalala, secretary of Health and Human Services, and we call on her to do the right thing." ▼

AIDS conference

◀ page 14

International AIDS Society which organized the conference. "But this conference proved that they were wrong."

"This is a conference where we should have brought our children, because it is our commitment to teach future generations to fight HIV and AIDS," said Vella.

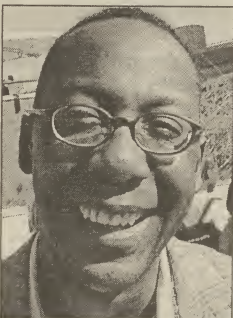
Among the missing

New York activist Mark Harrington singled out some of the missing for special criticism. "There is a real 'Mafia' that controls not only the ACTG [U.S. AIDS Clinical Trials Group] but they control the retrovirus conference [which meets in January in the U.S.]. And guess what, they're not here," he said. He works with the Treatment Action Group and is the recipient of a five-year MacArthur Foundation "genius" grant for his work in AIDS advocacy.

"Chip Schooley didn't come and neither did Connie Benson, or Doug Richmond," said Harrington, naming three of the leading researchers and administrators. "I think that is a little bit of a 'fuck you' to the rest of the world, particularly to the developing world," he continued. "They have the largest clinical trials infrastructure in the world and they

didn't even bother coming to see. I think that is a little rude."

"How can Paul Volberding not be here?" cried another advocate, who asked not to be quoted by name. The University of California at San Francisco researcher is editor of the leading peer review journal *JAIDS*.



Whitman-Walker's Cornelius Baker

Cornelius Baker took a different tact, "The reality is that there is no one not here that we couldn't live without. The people who are here are the people who are very much committed to the future of this epidemic, which means really ending it in every corner of the world."

"If 90 percent of the people have either no access to the drugs or the drugs are not useful to them

in their part of the world, then we are producing useless science," Baker continued. The former executive director of the National Association of People With AIDS and current head of the Whitman-Walker Clinic in Washington, one of the largest AIDS services organizations in the U.S., said, "The world that mattered was here."

The IAS also announced that they would begin sponsoring a conference on HIV pathogenesis and treatment to be held in alternate years. Unlike the Durban conference, which included social sciences and community leaders, it will focus only on science. The first will be next July in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The U.S. retroviral conference was established when IAS moved from an annual to a biennial frequency. While Vella denied there was any formal competition with the January meeting, there was an undercurrent of unhappiness with the American dominated event. Plus, its capped enrollment has meant that hundreds of people have been turned away from participating over the last few years.

David Barr thought that the science-only focus of the new meeting was "really a mistake. What we should be doing is convincing the biomedical scientists to come back in to this meeting rather than give them even more reason to divorce themselves from it." ▼

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CA high court rejects Rosenkrantz review

by Ed Walsh

The California Supreme Court gave a big boost last week to the parole hopes of Robert Rosenkrantz, the gay Southern California man convicted of second-degree murder for killing his tormentor.

Last Wednesday, July 12, the court refused to review a Court of Appeals ruling that found Rosenkrantz had been unfairly denied parole. Attorney General Bill Lockyer's office filed the appeal on behalf of the Board of Prison Terms.

On June 30, under the threat of contempt of court charges, a three-member panel of the Board of Prison Terms reluctantly ordered Rosenkrantz paroled. The full board has until August 30 to finalize the order and Governor Gray Davis has 30 days after that to decide whether to block parole.

Davis has vowed to stop the parole of all murderers. Rosenkrantz was one of 16 convicted murderers who had their parole overturned by Davis last year. Rosenkrantz's supporters are hoping the Supreme Court decision will discourage Davis from blocking Rosenkrantz's parole again.

"This is the biggest news yet," wrote Rosenkrantz in a letter sent to this reporter just after the Supreme Court decided to pass on his case. "If Davis doesn't grant parole then he is going against the highest court in the land."

Victims rights groups have criticized the court's unusual involvement in the parole process and are concerned if Rosenkrantz is freed it would open the floodgates for other convicted killers.

"It puts the Board of Prison Terms in a bizarre position," said Susan Fisher of the Doris Tate Crime Victims Bureau who characterized the court's involvement as "judicial thought control."

Rosenkrantz was 18 in 1985 when he shot a former classmate, Steve Redman. The shooting ended a chain of events that began a week earlier when Redman, along with Rosenkrantz's younger brother, burst into a high school graduation party hosted by Rosenkrantz shouting "get the fuck out of here, you faggots." Redman broke Rosenkrantz's nose with a flashlight and later outed him to his father. Rosenkrantz's father ordered him to tell him the

phone numbers or addresses of the friends who attended his party, or get out. Rosenkrantz said he felt he had no choice because he didn't want to reveal the identities of his new gay friends and moved out.

He was living out of his car for a week when he approached Redman with an Uzi he recently purchased. He said he pointed it at

Redman's car and demanded Redman recant his outing as his brother had done. The two argued and Rosenkrantz opened fire, shooting Redman 10 times. Rosenkrantz eventually turned himself in and was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to 17-years-to-life.

With credit for good behavior, Rosenkrantz has already served

his minimum sentence.


Both the Los Angeles County Superior Court and the Court of Appeals have ruled that the parole board violated Rosenkrantz's rights by mischaracterizing his crime as first-degree murder and ignoring the extreme stress he was under at the time of the killing. The courts also said the board unfairly found Rosenkrantz was a

threat to society when "all the evidence is to the contrary."

By all accounts, Rosenkrantz has been a model prisoner. He has expressed deep remorse for his killing and reconciled with his family. All the psychological reports and prison evaluations produced by the California Department of Corrections strongly support his release. ▼

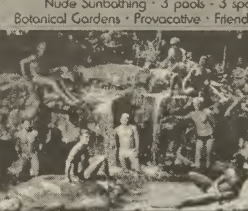
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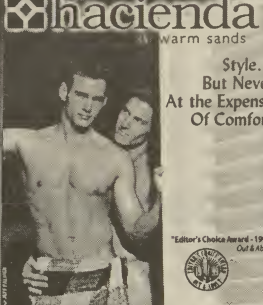
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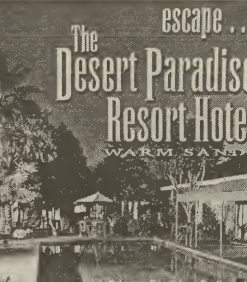


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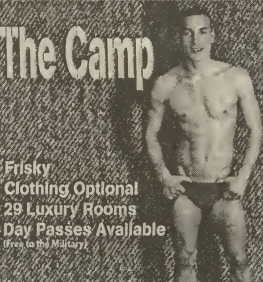
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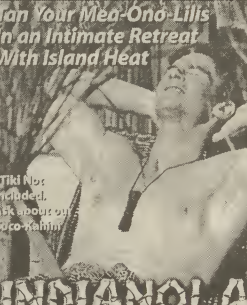
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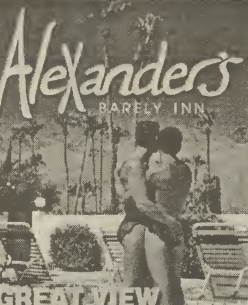
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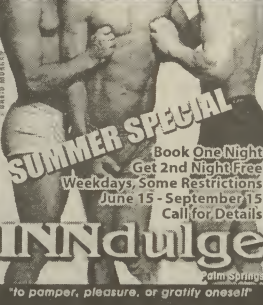
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MCC death

◀ page 3

staffed and operated under contract with the city by the nonprofit Ark of Refuge, with assistance from MCC volunteers. Closed as planned after just a few months of operation, the shelter had been controversial among its neighbors prior to its opening, though no significant problems had been reported during its brief tenure.

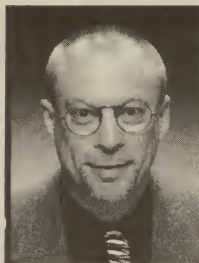
The new shelter in the Castro is staffed and funded by MCC-SF, and with six beds, is not required to obtain a conditional use permit for the small program.

Leno would not say whether he thought that Howard's death might have been averted if a city-funded shelter targeting queer youth continued to be operated, but he said that Howard was part of a population that a new transitional housing facility planned to open in the fall is designed to reach.

"The fact is Curtis was part of a high-risk group," Leno said. ▼

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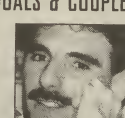
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Africa: Battleground of the AIDS epidemic

by Phillip Alden, Survive AIDS Writers Pool

South Africa would seem a perfect place to hold the International AIDS Conference, which concluded last week in Durban, but the controversy surrounding the conference and South African President Thabo Mbeki is merely a microcosm of the larger picture. There are actually two epidemics going on in South Africa, the AIDS epidemic and an epidemic of deep denial. These parallel epidemics are destroying the country.

By contrast, Uganda has not only aggressively fought the battle against the AIDS, but also provided new clinical evidence that HIV does cause AIDS. African science is often hard to prove and Ugandan scientists have been met with derision or indifference to their work. As noted in the *Lancet*, a prestigious British medical journal, western scientists attending previous international AIDS conferences simply walked out of the auditorium when African scientists would get up to present their data.

It is crucial to understand the situation in sub-Saharan Africa. Last year 14.8 million people in the region died of AIDS, and at least 34 million are currently infected. AIDS is killing people at such a staggering rate that it is almost incomprehensible. As compassionate and caring people, we want to help, but as individuals we can only do so much.

The epidemic of disease

If all the pharmaceutical companies ramped up production and started sending the drugs to the African nations right now without charging a penny, the grim outlook would not change much. Trying to initiate treatment to those 34 million people would meet many barriers: distrust of westerners, physical side effects, social stigmatization, lack of necessary primary and secondary medical treatment, poor nutrition, other endemic diseases in the region, and government hindrance through bureaucracy and corruption.

Barring a series of large scale miracles, most of those currently infected will die. The average life span for a person living in sub-Saharan Africa is 30 years. AIDS is going to destroy whole generations in these countries. Even now there are crops that can't be harvested because there are not enough healthy people to do the work.

Businesses are training three people for every one job position in an attempt to maintain their workforce. When you don't have enough soldiers to protect your sovereignty, enough workers to keep the government operating, enough doctors and nurses to help the ill, enough police units to keep order, or enough farmers to bring food to market, chaos ensues.

It's deeply saddening to picture more than ten countries destroyed by depopulation. I think that it's impossible to imagine the thousands of effects that will ripple

across the world, and imagine how much our world will change due to the collapse of these countries. AIDS will show us how much an epidemic can radically affect the entire planet.

That doesn't mean for a moment that we should not do all we can right now. There are a number of organizations like Doctors Without Borders and UN AIDS Relief that are doing everything they can to slow the disease and help those who have it. The problem is that these heroes in the fight against AIDS don't have enough time, people, or medications to stem the destruction they see.

The epidemic of denial

A woman in South Africa tries to call attention to the epidemic by bravely stepping up and publicly announcing that she has HIV. As a result, she loses her job and is ostracized by her family, forcing her and her newborn out of the house.

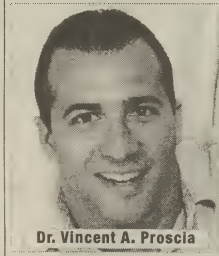
A man takes his wife to the hospital because she is gravely ill. When he discovers that she has AIDS he kills her, even though he is the one who passed the disease to her. The legal authorities take no action and file no charges against the man. Sadly, these stories are not extraordinary or uncommon, they are increasingly ordinary and common.

In a culture where a woman cannot negotiate her sexual safety, she becomes a victim of sexual abuse, and that plays a huge role in the spread of AIDS across the planet. And that lack of power applies not only to women in Sub-Saharan Africa, it also applies to women in the United States, and in almost every country in the

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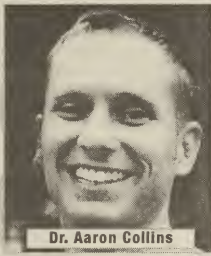


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OBITUARIES

SM party raided in Massachusetts

by Liz Highleyman

On July 8, police in Attleboro, Massachusetts, raided a private SM party at a downtown building, resulting in two arrests. The case has garnered considerably publicity in New England and has generated debate about the regulation of consensual, private sexual activity.

An estimated 40-50 people were present at the party when two police officers arrived shortly before 11 p.m. The officers said they happened upon the gathering as they were conducting a routine security check of the former factory building located in downtown Attleboro, southwest of Boston near the Rhode Island border. Attendees and their supporters claim that the two officers

entered the party without a warrant.

The two people arrested, Benjamin Davis and Stefany Reed, were released on \$1,000 bail and are scheduled to appear in court in late July. Davis, the party's host, faces numerous charges, including assault on a police officer, operating a business without a license, keeping a house of ill fame (prostitution), lending or selling articles for self-abuse, and several counts of possession of a dangerous weapon. Articles for self-abuse include items such as dildos and vibrators. The Massachusetts State Judicial Court ruled in the 1980 *Commonwealth v. Appleby* case that items such as riding crops, whips, and walking sticks may be considered "dangerous weapons" depending on the context in which they are used. The

prostitution charge stems from the fact that Davis requested a donation to help cover expenses.

Reed was charged with assault and battery after police allegedly saw her spanking another woman on the buttocks with a wooden paddle or spoon. In the Appleby case, the court also ruled that consent is not a defense to a charge of assault and battery.

Police seized and held property including a Palm handheld computer and a laptop computer belonging to Davis, the guest list for the party, and SM toy bags belonging to Davis and several attendees; to date none of the confiscated items have been returned.

Support for Davis and Reed is being provided by members of the New England Leather Association and the National Coalition for

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Survive AIDS

◀ page 18

world. Take the massive assault against over 50 women in New York's Central Park earlier this year. The behavior of these men was animalistic, and it was tacitly endorsed by the New York City Police Department.

Africans with HIV/AIDS live in a place where denial is the most important factor. Being open about having the virus is considered as publicly shaming the family. This applies to men, women, and children. Public shame is the number one barrier to testing. Some won't get tested because they simply don't want to know, but most fear rejection on one level or another. Only 5 percent of the 4.2 million South African citizens know that they have contracted the virus; 95 percent have no idea, and they're adding to the spread of the disease. It is widely rumored that some government officials are living with, and dying from HIV/AIDS.

For an American AIDS activist, it's like watching four or five trains converging on the same point at breakneck speed. It saddens us, and angers us, and in the end, leaves us with a feeling of hopelessness for Sub-Saharan Africa. We are eager to help but there is little that we can actually do. An effective fight involves the American public as a whole, and we have no idea how much carnage has to happen before people wake up.

Another nail in the denialists' coffin

In Uganda in 1980, a mysterious disease called "Slim" was killing people. The name came from the fact that people with the disease were getting thinner and thinner until they died. In a country where the practice of witchcraft is still believed to directly alter people's lives, the cause of many illnesses were often misdiagnosed by people in small villages with no "western" medical education or awareness. Slim was present in populations that had enough good food to eat, and relatively clean water.

By 1985 it became clear that Slim was really AIDS. Most of those dying probably suffered from a host of conditions that can suppress appetite; some probably had wasting syndrome, others various forms of cancers. Add ig-

norance and the stage was set for a sub-continental epidemic that killed 14 million people by the end of 1999.

When South African president Thabo Mbeki started meeting with groups of AIDS denialists, the rational scientific community slammed the president publicly and Mbeki has since been backpeddling madly.

Denialists claim that antiviral drugs are the cause of AIDS, yet the rate of illness and death happens much more frequently in the absence of such therapies, and people stay alive and healthy for longer periods of time in the presence of antiviral medication.

Tuberculosis has been an indicator of HIV infection. In people with no other diseases, TB is mostly confined to the lungs, but in people with AIDS, TB co-infection often spreads to other parts of the body. The people studied in Uganda were found to have the latter form.

In Zambia, a cancer surgeon noticed a new type of Kaposi's sarcoma (KS-13) in a number of patients. This subset had a form of KS that progressed much more rapidly than the historically common form of KS. When the subjects were tested for HIV, everyone in the subset tested positive. Everyone with the "common" KS tested negative.

It is clear that the HIV virus causes AIDS. The variety of areas and cultures that have been scientifically studied has shown this beyond any point of reasonable doubt. The denialists can't let go of their outdated and misleading research because they have nowhere to go. The instant they admit their failure, the need for them ceases to exist. If you were facing extinction, you'd worry too. President Mbeki and his counterparts in the region need to stop dabbling in witchcraft and ignorance and start looking for realistic solutions. ▼



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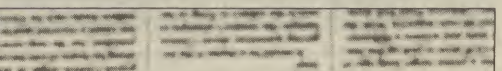


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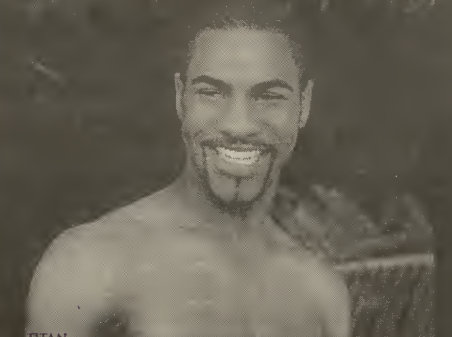
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Hope floats

by Jim Provenzano

Late night television can be so informative, and sporty. Last week, after *Tonight Show* guest George Clooney made numerous references to his drunken golf tour in which he traveled the country with eight men in a bus full of beds, I began to wonder again about George's true love of sports, men, and sportsmanship.

Flirtatiously commenting that he still has the rubber suit from *Batman Forever* (admittedly his least favorite film, but one of my favorites of his - heck, all his movies are my favorites), Jay Leno asked if George dates gals and dresses them up as Robin.

"Now you've gone too far," he said, deadpan.

George's humor makes me wonder if the kiss he and Mark Wahlberg shared (cut from *The Perfect Storm*) wasn't perhaps as wet as the rest of the movie. Was that their only kiss? Did they practice?

After George got his scruffy "bearded" self offstage, Jay Leno greeted a group of large gals who do synchronized swimming. Their name? The Padded Lilies.

The Padded Lilies are fat.

They like to be called fat.

"We like the 'F' word," said one lady whose name escapes me. Sorry, the gals were not fully identified.

They perform "anywhere with enough water." They're available for parties for a couple hundred bucks. You have to provide the pool.

Should you book them, don't expect the comic shenanigans Jay anticipated. The water-borne wimmin, while lightly amusing, maintained an attitude of such utter self-respect that they deflated Jay's attempt to humiliate them on national TV.

Not that they're full-tilt athletes, nor do they expect to be headed to Sydney this fall for the Olympics. "We float so it's actual-

ly difficult to perform all the moves," said another Lily.

Whether the Lilies perpetuate any stereotypes of size, girth, and mirth is up to you dear readers. I'm curious. I'm interested.

Are gals in swimsuits sexy when a size 70? What's it like to be big?

If you're happy with your tire, tub, or tummy, do you have a weight "problem?"

I'm happy when folks of any size are able to enjoy their favorite recreational pursuit with pleasure, on national TV or not. Big people exercise, too.

I love choreography. I love swimming. Just not together.

Not much for the tedium of lap swimming, particularly at pools where the yuppies bring their cell phones, the creativity of synchronized swimming, not unlike rhythmic gymnastics, leaves a bit to be desired in freeform, but it's a step in the right direction.

In our own community, there are even photo books glorifying the love and lust of buxom babes. Check 'em out at Good Vibrations.

At other more mainstream news racks, there's a lot of articles in magazines these days about fat kids, and how exercise is dying in schools. Gym class is being replaced by computer classes. While

lithe and muscular jocks like Marion Jones and Maurice Greene proved themselves to be the two fastest humans in track competition in Sacramento last weekend at the Olympic trials, in your average classroom, no one's racing, except to get to the cafeteria.

But even that joke's not right. According to more studies, eating induces obesity, but many girthful folks find that their weight is genetic, not the fault of diet.

Accepting that fact, will our culture accept tubbier teens amid the Twiggy fashion modes dictated by other mag-

azines?

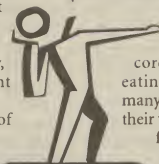
The visibility of large people in media, aside from being the butt of gluttony jokes on Pepto Bismal commercials, is extremely abysmal.

Letting the girthful gals get their chance, while obviously attempting to have fun at their expense, *The Tonight Show* ended up showcasing athletic and balletic women with dignity and buoyant humor.

The Lilies were also featured on a BBC January 1999 *Horizon* episode on weight.

You can read a transcript of the show, including quotes from the Lilies, at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/horizon/fat/trans.shtml>

See you at the pool. ▼



**Sports
Complex**

Past Out

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1990s by an opportunity - and a threat. Marketing reports based on now-questioned statistics declared that gay and lesbian DINKs (dual income, no kids) had huge disposable incomes compared to their married heterosexual counterparts, and mainstream advertisers began funneling money into gay publications. The *Advocate's* advertising revenues nearly dou-

bled between 1990 and 1992, but the new interest also helped lead to the creation of *Genre*, *Deneuve* (now called *Curve*), and *Out*. The new glossies were appealing to advertisers, and left the *Advocate* looking dowdy.

Competition forced the *Advocate* to remake itself, and in 1992, the publication became the magazine familiar today. The erotic and personal ads were spun off into a separate publication, and the traditional newspaper was replaced with the glossy stock advertisers like. Advertisers were attracted by the magazine's new look, though reader response was mixed. Some gay men felt that the *Advocate* had sold out and "gone mainstream," but many lesbian readers were relieved that male erotica was removed from a magazine that had called itself "gay and lesbian" since 1990. In 1996, the magazine named Judy Wieder, its arts and entertainment editor, the first female editor in chief.

Today, the biweekly remains the only national gay and lesbian news publication and is now part of a growing gay media empire. Its publishing company, Liberation Publications Inc., recently bought rival magazine *Out* and then announced a merger with gay Web powerhouse PlanetOut. ▼

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Streitmatter, Rodger, 1995. *Unspeakable: The Rise of the Gay and Lesbian Press in America*. Boston: Faber and Faber.

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Pot ID cards

◀ page 2

also made it possible for several still-unregulated but above-ground businesses that sell pot in the city to open their doors and advertise their wares.

"People know that the voters of the state of California are recognizing that cannabis has a very important role in managing the symptoms of people with HIV and other conditions," Katz added, noting that he recommends marijuana for some of his own patients.

Supervisor Mark Leno, who had hammered together the legislation and facilitated the city's creation of the new card, was even more effusive in his praise for the new program.

"Medical cannabis is effective, medical cannabis is safe, medical cannabis rules!" exulted a card-waving Leno. "This plastic card recognizes not only the safety but the efficacy of medical cannabis."

In addition to Katz, Leno was joined at the announcement by District Attorney Terence Hallinan, Assistant Chief of Police Earl Sanders, and Wayne Justmann, director of the San Francisco Patient's Resource Center, one of the largest dispensaries of medicinal marijuana operating in San Francisco.

Passed four years ago, Proposition 215 has been notorious for the vagueness of its guidance on the new law's implementation, and though a new statewide ID card program — which unlike San Francisco's may not be voluntary — is under consideration in the Legislature, local police officers, city governments, and the medical pot clubs in their jurisdiction have struggled to devise their own systems. Leno's legislation creating the city's new cards was modeled on similar ID card systems in Oakland, Arcata, and Mendocino County.

"People need to understand that this card deserves 100 percent

respect," said Leno, who then valiantly proceeded to attempt to garner continued respect for those with just a letter of recommendation from their personal physician.

"People who don't carry the card but [do carry] the letter also deserve respect," asserted Leno, even going so far as to suggest that SFPD's Sanders would say as much.

"We as police officers are bound to uphold the law," Sanders began, "and 215 passed the last time I checked the law."

But the question, of course, is in how the law is implemented on the street — and as a practical matter it is San Francisco's finest who will look to the assistant chief for guidance in this area. And if the look on Sander's face was any indication, anyone who uses marijuana for medicinal purposes in San Francisco had best fix their hair and hurry on down to the first floor of the DPH building, where they can get their very own medical cannabis ID card.

"This is the valid club card," declared Sanders, ignoring Leno's physician's recommendation letter issue, and further-stated that individual clubs' ID cards will no longer be honored by the cops. "This card is the only way [officers can distinguish between legitimate and no-legitimate users]. That's why we sat down and developed this program, so my officers will be able to tell."

On Tuesday, July 18, SFPD spokesman Sherman Ackerson told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the department has "no grace period" established to allow medical cannabis users time to be informed about the new program and to walk through the necessary paperwork to physicians and caregivers, required to obtain the official card.

Leno told the *B.A.R.* on Tuesday that his office would continue to meet with community activists and the SFPD to ensure that the cops know that the program is

voluntary, and to educate them on the validity of the doctor's letter of recommendation as a proof of compliance with the law.

Most of the medical pot clubs in town are on board with the program, according to Leno, and are comfortable with its confidentiality procedures, in which no name is imprinted on the cards, and paper applications are shredded by DPH days after the cards are issued.

Though Justmann led a picket outside DPH several months ago, concerned that the cannabis community was not being adequately consulted as the program was developed, he was first to volunteer for the not-necessarily-foolproof confidential program, and he also got the first card. Justmann had praise for all the participants in the ID card's development, thanking Leno, and also singling out Hallinan for his longtime leadership on the issue.

"It started with the will of the people," Justmann told the crowd. "We found that there was a need for a program, and we found that we had a friend in our district attorney."

Hallinan, one of the few law enforcement officials statewide who supported Proposition 215, then referred him to Leno to get the ball rolling with the legislation, Justmann said.

But card or no card, other than the occasional police harassment or the possibility of federal enforcement of marijuana laws down the line, there should be little worry of being prosecuted for small time possession within the city limits.

"If you are using marijuana pursuant to a doctor's recommendation," Hallinan stated, lest there be lingering confusion, "you will not be charged with a crime in San Francisco." ▼

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SM party

◀ page 21

Sexual Freedom, an organization that advocates for the civil rights of sexual minorities. The Massachusetts chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, as well as Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, and the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, have also spoken out against the arrests. According to ACLU attorney Sarah Wunsch, the instruments of self-abuse law is antiquated and absurd. "It's a disgrace,

I think, that anyone has been charged with that," she said.

According to attorney John Ward, who was involved in the unsuccessful Appleby case, "We allow boxing, we allow football, we allow hockey. The only difference is that this is a sexual situation."

A legal fund for Davis's defense is being established. ▼

For more information about the Attleboro case and the legal defense fund, see the web site at www.nla-newengland.org/attleboro.html.

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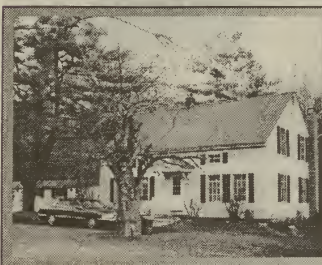
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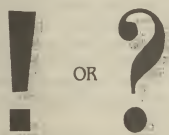
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for program assisting people with HIV/AIDS to enter/re-enter the work place. Performs job development and placement; provides job search skills development and coaching. Competitive salary/w/ excellent benefits Resume/cover letter by 7/28 to: Positive Resource Center, 973 Market St., 6th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94103

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Needs 4 FT people-apprentice to skilled. Must have reliable trans & own basic tools. Call (415) 586-3289 (mess.) or (415) 699-3070. Ask for Bill.

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San Ramon Based Insurance Agency has opening in customer service, underwriting and clerical. Gay friendly environment and great benefits including domestic partner benefits. Fax/email resume to Sally Rose @ 925-275-0345 or srose@ccnallins.com

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MODELS WANTED

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE NO. 313337

In The Superior Court Of The State Of California In And For The County Of San Francisco. In the matter of the Application of Jason Michael White Rejali (minor) by his father Shahab Mostafav Rejali. For Change of Name. The application of Jason Michael White Rejali (minor) for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Jason Michael White Rejali has filed an application proposing that his name be changed to Jason Michael Rejali. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 28th day of August 2000, at 9:00 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
JULY 13, 20, 27 AUG. 3, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 242126

The following person(s) are doing business as Stuart Plontek- Interior Design. 118 Whitney Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by a Individual signed Stuart Plontek. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 07/14/2000.
JULY 20, 27 AUG. 3, 10, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 313603

In The Superior Court Of The State Of California In And For The County Of San Francisco. In the matter of the Application of Yu, William Wai-Lim; Yu, Darwin Man-Tik; (minor), Yu, Edmond Cho-Tik (minor). For Change of Name. The application of Yu, William Wai-Lim, Yu, Darwin Man-Tik (minor), Yu, Edmond Cho-Tik (minor), having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Yu, William Wai-Lim, Yu, Darwin Man-Tik (minor), Yu, Edmond Cho-Tik (minor), has filed an application proposing that his name be changed to Yee, William Wai-Lim; Yee, Darwin Man-Tik (minor); Yee, Edmond Cho-Tik (minor). Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 11th day of September 2000, at 9:00 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
JULY 20, 27 AUG. 3, 10, 2000

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 240524

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Defiant Productions 1800 Franklin #502 S.F. CA 94109. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 2/14/00. This business was conducted by: a Individual: Jason J. Thomas.
JULY 13, 20, 27 AUG. 3, 2000



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Interested applicants are encouraged to mail, fax, or email their resumes to the Director of Administration, Calvary Presbyterian Church, 2515 Fillmore Street, San Francisco 94110 415.346.1436 or email larrygardner@calpres.org.

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Request for Qualifications #182

The City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services (SFDHS) announces its intent to seek proposals from organizations interested in contracting for a master leased hotel program to provide supportive housing for formerly homeless adults.

The contract will provide \$700,000 over the period from September 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001. This contract may be renewed depending on performance of contractor.

An RFQ packet may be picked up at SFDHS, 170 Otis, 8th Floor beginning July 11, 2000. Office hours are from 8AM to 5PM.

The Respondents' Conference will be held on July 24, 2000, at 2:00 PM at 170 Otis, 8th Floor Conference Room, SF, CA. For further information call Pauson Yun at (415) 557-5181. Due date for responses is Wednesday, July 31, 2000 at 5PM.

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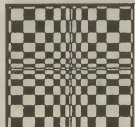
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LEGAL NOTICES

Request for Qualifications #186

DHS RFQ #186

The City and County of San Francisco Department of Human
Services (DHS) announces its intent to seek qualifications
from individuals who may be qualified to implement the San
Francisco WAGES+ (Wage Augmentation Grants for Entry-
level Staff) Project. The contract is to plan, implement, and
evaluate a \$4.1 million nationally innovative child care
provider compensation program. The purpose of the
program is to address living wages for the lowest tier of the
child care workforce. The program will augment salaries of
entry-level child care workers and teachers in licensed child
care centers caring for children from low-income families.
The program is expected to improve staff recruitment and
retention thereby increasing the stability of the child care
workforce and the quality of care for
children and their families.

An RFQ packet may be picked up at SFDHS, 170 Otis, 8th
Floor beginning Wednesday, July 5, 2000. Office hours are
from 8AM to 5PM.

The 2nd Respondents' Conference is on Wednesday, July 20, 2000 at
8:00 AM at the SF Dept. of Human Service, 170 Otis, 8th Floor
Conference Room SE, CA. RFQ is due Thursday, August 3, 2000 by
5:00PM - NO EXCEPTIONS. For further information or to receive
an RFQ packet, contact Rosa Inez at (415) 557-5538 or go to
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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE NO. 241025
The following person(s) are doing business as Pacific Acupuncture Associates. 1201 Noe Street San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed John Kolenda. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 5/20/00. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 05/26/2000.
JUNE 29 JULY 6, 13, 20, 2000

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 0233942
The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Larkin Street Flowers and Gifts. Located at: 709 Larkin Street San Francisco, Ca. 94109. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 8/13/1999. This business was conducted by: a individual: Linda Dela Cruz.
JUNE 26, JULY 6, 13, 20, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 241936
The following person(s) are doing business as EyeBite Productions 3566 17th St., Ste. #1, San Francisco, CA 94110. This business is conducted by a individual signed Garrett Reg. Lenor. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 5/20/00. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 07/06/2000.
JULY 13, 20, 27 AUG 3, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 313550
In The Superior Court Of The State Of California In And For The County Of San Francisco. In the matter of the Application of Rehab T. Ali and Mohammad T. Ali. For Change of Name. The application of Rehab T. Ali and Mohammad T. Ali, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Rehab T. Ali and Mohammad T. Ali, has filed an application proposing that his name be changed to Rogena and Hamoda Abdelhalim, Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 7th day of September 2000, at 9:00 o'clock A.M. of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
JULY 20, 27 AUG. 3, 10, 2000

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STATEMENT FILE NO. 241883
The following person(s) are doing business as 1. The Sundance Association; 2. Sundance Saloon; 3. Hoedown 2000, 1314 Noe St., S.F., CA 94131. This business is conducted by a corporation The Sundance Association For Country Western Dancing signed Ingu Yun, President. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 12/23/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 07/03/2000.
JULY 13, 20, 27 AUG. 3, 2000

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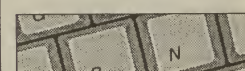
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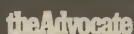
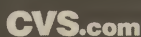
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Surprising himself
Author Christopher Bram
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 30 • No. 29 • 20 July 2000

Let us now praise Karen Black

**Marc Huestis' tribute to
the indefatigable star** by Matthew Kennedy

Turn off the light when you go. I love you, too... yeah, I'm having an interview right now. I'm sorry, where were we?" So speaks Karen Black as she negotiates two conversations. I recently caught up with her by phone at the Excelsior Hotel on New York's Upper West Side, where she was taking temporary residence with her 12-year-old daughter. "I love this place" she coos. "It's so cozy and incredibly pretty."

After Black's New York sojourn (she's making a movie there), she'll join the faithful for a tribute at the Castro Theatre on Friday, July 21. Marc Huestis, he of the splashy Castro Camp Fests, has planned a lollapalooza of a show in her honor. "I was scurrying around for a summer event, and I always like my summer events to be fun and festive," says a chipper Huestis. Freely associating, he adds, "I was thinking orange, and Karen Black came to mind." Actually, orange and Black do mix in one great gown she wore as the country-singing bitch Connie White in *Nashville* (1975). So, says Huestis, in inspiration for a *Ho-Down With Karen Black!* also featuring the "Crazy" Patsy Cline & the Memphis G-Spots, and Connie Champagne. Miss Black will appear on stage to chat and receive that uniquely Castroesque adulation. Huestis promises she'll even sing a ditty or two. The screening of a fine Black vehicle, the country-flavored chamber comedy-drama *Come Back to the Five and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean* (1982), will follow.

The days of *Easy Rider* (1969), *Five Easy Pieces* (1970), *The Great Gatsby* (1973), *Nashville* and *Family Plot* (1976) have long passed, but Black is hardly collecting dust and mulling over yellowed clippings. Despite a precipitous drop in widespread exposure, she has managed to maintain a screen-acting career of inestimable longevity and girth. She has made (are you ready?) approximately 125 movies over 30 years. She takes work in movies that often go straight to video or never get distribution. These days, young filmmakers

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Karen Black
in *Invasion
from Mars*



Little Richard mouths off Plays Davies Hall Sunday night

by Richard Dodds

Little Richard has been with many men and women and combinations of both, but he never found a soulmate. He's okay with that.

"You know, I'm 67 now," said the gender-bending rock 'n' roll pioneer, "and when you get to this stage of your life, things change. I'm happy where I am now. And I don't need no headaches and no heartaches."

Little Richard, performing with his 10-piece band on July 23 at Davies Symphony Hall, lost the "love of my life" 13 years ago. "That was my mother," he said from a car phone. "I'm a mama's boy. She was my inspiration. Now I don't have nobody in my life but God."

Little Richard's struggles over the decades to reconcile religion, rock 'n' roll, and a raging libido have been well documented, and he seems to have found a harmony at last.

The religion that Little Richard now practices is light on fire and brimstone, and big on acceptance. He has no use for religious conservatives who use their pulpits to attack and condemn alternative lifestyles.

"I think some of those people are from the pits of Hell," he said. "They call themselves religious, but they're devils. They don't know God, because if they knew God,

they couldn't put nobody down because they'd realize we're all here by the mercy of God. They're so heavenly bound that they ain't no earthly good. Me, of all people, can't talk down on nothing, on nobody."

Little Richard famously gave up his earthly ways in 1957 in the midst of a tour of Australia. He turned his back on rock 'n' roll, which he termed "demonic," and homosexuality, which he considered unnatural, to find peace of mind by studying theology. It was five years before he was again singing "Lucille," "Long Tall Sally," and "Tutti Frutti." A costly, destructive cocaine habit dogged him through the '70s, which he finally broke as he made another return to religion in 1979.

That break with the secular world lasted until 1986, when Charles White's authorized biography of Little Richard and his induction into the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame put the performer back in the spotlight. White's *The Life and Times of Little Richard* largely consists of verbatim transcripts of Little Richard telling his own story, starting with his birth as Richard Penniman in Macon, Ga., as one of 12 kids, and with an effeminate propensity that his father de-

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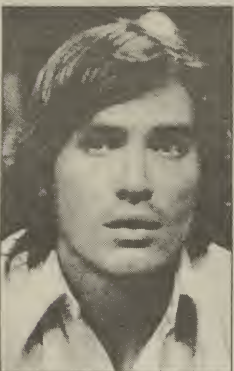
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by Roberto Friedman and the F-Heads

One night last week we were feeling footloose and fancy free, so we went down to the Embarcadero to see the incredibly sexy **Billy Crudup** in *Jesus' Son*, the **Alison Maclean**-directed film based on **Denis Johnson** stories. Thank gawd someone in Lions Gate Films knows how to place an apostrophe. Anyway, Crudup was his usual spectacular self as charming loser **Fuckhead**, aka F.H. We found it the most poetic druggy movie since **Gus Van Sant's** *Drugstore Cowboy*, and that's an ad-ready blurb!

Billy Crudup in *Jesus' Son*

Some creative soul had arranged an advertising display for the film in a locked case outside the theatre, a set-up which included a tidy little arrangement of pharmaceutical bottles. A sign clearly indicated to the tempted

and felonious: "For display only, bottles empty!"

The movie's title comes from a lyric in the classic **Velvet Underground** song "Heroin."

Speaking of transgressive filmmakers, Baltimore's best, **John Waters**, whose new flick *Cecil B. Demented* opens next month, said



Director John Waters

recently in *IFC Rant* magazine: "I see all these riots in Washington and Seattle, and I don't get why there's all this talk about the World Bank, but I love the photo ops and the fashions, and they look like they're having a great time. See, kids today don't know how much fun it is to go to a riot. They always have great sex at riots. It's really fun to have sex in a riot, with tear gas and police." Let's hear it for an idiosyncratic if not wholly informed take on global politics!

Out There

Stoned again

Not to disillusion any of our readers, but back in our impressionable youth, when *Out There* was chilling in the Ivy League and living the life, we had our very own Brooks Brothers credit card and dressed appropriately. Of course, later we moved to the Left Coast, became downwardly mobile, dressed in tatters, and *shipped* the card in two. Something about the logo — a sheep hanging by a rope — struck then-vegetarian us as *unkind to animals*.

None of this prevented us from attending the opening of the newly relocated Brooks Brothers store on Post St. last week. The reception benefited Yerba Buena Center for the Arts' Young Artists at Work Program, and so there were Yerba Buena staff members looking soigné as they modeled B. Bros. threads; **Joe Goode** Performance Group dancers striking languid poses in the store's windows; charismatic appearances by YBC exec director **John Killackey** and Medea Project's **Rhodesa**



Medea Project's Rhodesa Jones

Jones; and a passel of Asia SF drag queens, also fully decked out in B. Bros., voguing down a staircase. Hell, we can see *them* on 9th St.

We were heading for said staircase with our eligible friend the YB press agent when we inadvertently stepped in front of a blonde, dolled-up woman going the same way. We realized she was movie star **Sharon Stone** just as she remarked indignantly, "Ex-cu-u-use me!"

Sharon Stone as a book editor in the film *Sliver*

A true scene-stealing actress, La Stone conveyed in those mere three (or four or five) syllables all of the following: "I am Hollywood Royalty, and I am ready to descend! Who knows who you are, and you are in my way!"

We got out of the way so quickly, we didn't have time to tell her how much we loved/hated her in *Basic Instinct*. But of course we mean her character, because you can only be totally in awe of Sharon.

Crunch break

Out There took the call from a publicist from the gym/fitness club Crunch, over on Van Ness Avenue in the AMC multiplex building. He was encouraging us to try the place out for a work-out, and consider writing an item about it.

"Perhaps you've heard of our smoked-glass showers?" he wanted to know. "You can see right into them from outside the locker rooms."

"Voyeurs love them! So do exhibitionists!"

Hey, we're there. We liked how shameless this fitness flack was being; it matched our copy needs. On our visit we found: enough mirrors surrounding the weights and exercise machines to over-stimulate the most obsessive narcissist; TVs, disco music, and flip little signs everywhere ("Not responsible for lost items, like your boyfriend, your girlfriend or your job"); a faux-rock climbing wall, for the truly lunatic; classes with names like "Tread 'n' Shed" and "Booty-Kickin' Step"; and everything else you'd expect in a modern gym.

Then there are those go-go showers, which are indeed visible in a peekaboo sort of way from the gym stairs. The tiling and shower curtain in each peep-show booth/shower stall are basic black; a tiny spotlight lights you from below like you're Sharon Stone. You do your best to create interesting, sexy shadows for your gymmates. It's all très glam in an Adonis Complex, Reality TV kind of way. After all, it's the Peeping Tom '00s! ▼

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MUSIC

Indigo Girls get social

At the Greek Theatre this weekend

by Gregg Shapiro

The Indigo Girls' album *Come On Now Social* was one of the best albums of 1999, and it's also one of the best albums of the duo's career. Currently on the latest leg of their tour in support of the critically acclaimed disc, Amy Ray and Emily Saliers should be coming to the Greek Theatre in Berkeley this Saturday. I recently spoke to Emily, and here is what she had to say.

Gregg Shapiro: Congratulations to you and Amy Ray on the GLAMA [Gay and Lesbian American Music Award] you received in the production category for the song "Trouble" from *Come On Now Social*.

Emily Saliers: I think that any time that you take note of the work that gays and lesbians and bisexuals and transgendered people are doing in culture, in the arts and the media, it's a good thing. Advancing ourselves in the evolution, working against homophobia, and celebrating ourselves, our art, and our contributions to society; I think that's what GLAMA does, so I feel good about that.

The Indigo Girls do a stunning cover of "Broken Blossoms" on the wonderful Dusty Springfield tribute disc *Forever Dusty* (R&D).

We're Dusty fans and have listened to her over the years. We love her voice and her interpretation, so it was kind of daunting to be doing a cover of a cover song that Dusty did. We tried to pick one that was a little more obscure. We went in there and tried to give a little bit of a retro flair. Those vocal harmony "woo woos" in the background, we've never done that before. Amy sings about as high as I've ever heard her sing on a recording. It was fun to do something totally different, and



The Indigo Girls: Emily Saliers, top, and Amy Ray, bottom.

do it for a good cause.

The Indigo Girls are also on the Woody Guthrie concert tribute disc *'Til We Outnumber 'Em* (Righteous Babe). You perform the song "Ramblin' Round" as a duet with Ani DiFranco.

We all love Woody because he's a true folk singer. Folk is music of the people. That's really Amy's and my roots. We feel compatible and in sync with his whole message and philosophy. To be singing with a contemporary like Ani was a thrill, but then to be singing with Pete Seeger, one of our folk mentors, was amazing. It was that kind of event.

What can you tell me about Honor The Earth?

It's a group that Amy and I helped start with some indigenous community leaders. It raises money through concerts and donations, and then the money goes

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by KEITH CURRAN

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'Les Miserables' trundles on

by Richard Dodds

There was a time when the future of the musical theater looked like *Les Miserables*. Now it's starting to look like nostalgia.

This standard bearer for the humorless quasi-operatic epic is back in San Francisco after a seven-year hiatus, like a visit from an old friend who isn't quite as fascinating as you once thought. The touring production at the Curran Theatre is a perfectly respectable affair, but emotional connections have given way to cordial appreciations.

Victor Hugo's sprawling novel is recounted in the broadest of strokes, like a phonebook-sized issue of the old Classics Illustrated Comics. But watching how the musical manages to coherently communicate such an expanse of storytelling becomes part of the entertainment.

Originally created as an outdoor spectacle for a Paris sports arena, Claude-Michel Schonberg and Alain Boublil's sung-through adaptation of Hugo was massaged into a more traditional theatrical format by directors John Caird and Trevor Nunn. Even if the ubiquitous turntable and the other devices they employed are beginning to seem a little yellowed at the edges, the economy and grace with which the story is told remains an impressive sight.

The backbone of the show is Schonberg's music that manages to lace battle hymns, lullabies, and personal anthems with a contemporary edge that doesn't sound anachronistic. The music sounds important, but possesses a repetitive simplicity that makes it accessible in the moment and less interesting in the long run. The English lyrics that Herbert Kretzmer based on Boublil's French originals can fall into simplistic rhymes and unexpected phrases like "What's up?" but they fill the large emotional outlines set by the music.

This is not a stripped-down production at the Curran, but a



The students at the barricades in a scene from *Les Miserables*

faithful replica of what's been playing on Broadway for 14 years. The cast is a spirited, talented group that shows few signs of road fatigue. The sound, though, was often out of balance at a perfor-

mance well into the Curran run. Ivan Rutherford as the noble Jean Valjean, Graham Rowat (subbing for Stephen Bishop) as the obsessed Inspector Javert, Joan

next page ►

Aspects of love

'Summertime' at the Magic

by Richard Dodds

There's a thin line between love and hate. That's one aphorism about love that *Summertime*, Charles Mee's new play at the Magic, has missed, but it still seems appropriate to this production.

It's easy to see how one might be enchanted by Mee's verbal spirals on the nature of love and by the considerable invention director Kenn Watt has invested in dressing them up. But those for whom the enchantment fails to find its grip may wind up pondering their watches as much as the wonders of love.

No, I didn't hate *Summertime*, but I did find it frustrating and even annoying too much of the time. Since there is little plot and characters speak mainly in riffs, the director may have felt the more distractions the better. But a frantic pace and the visual cacophony can make it hard to hear what the playwright is trying to say.

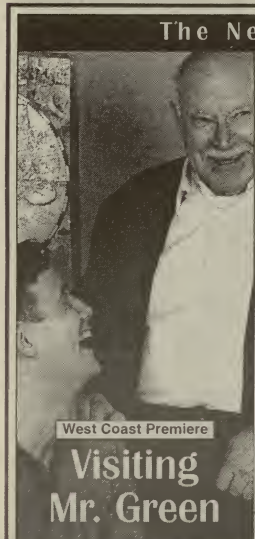
Summertime starts out as a boy-meets-girl story, but the boy gets more than he bargained for when he tries to convince the girl to reciprocate his love-at-first-sight passions. She is a reluctant romantic, a backlash reaction to a family too quick to chase after passion. While heterosexual relationships predominate, significant gay and lesbian re-

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Nina Gold in *Summertime*

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THEATRE

'Lost' and found

Cole Porter's 'Out of This World'

by Richard Dodds

As clodpated as the books are to many of the "lost" musicals that 42nd Street Moon revives, at least you know what you're getting. You may smile at an unexpectedly witty joke, laugh at a risqué comment, or groan in disbelief that audiences once found dreadful puns and inane situations to be funny. But it's still a slice of history, after all.

But in *Out of This World*, you really don't know what you're getting. The current script is made up bits of the original, a '70s adaptation, and some freshly minted material. It's probably less groan-provoking than the original, but not so wonderful as to make up for the loss of time-traveling discovery that the genuine article can provide.

Out of This World was Cole Porter's highly anticipated follow-up to *Kiss Me, Kate*, but the creators knew they were in trouble as soon as they faced their first out-of-town audiences. George Abbott took over as director from Agnes DeMille, and he also went to work on Dwight Taylor and Reginald Lawrence's book. The results were still unsatisfactory, and the show closed after a disappointing run on Broadway in 1951.

Out of This World, it now seems clear, was a show out of its time. This frolic about horny Greek gods chasing sexy mortals feels like something that would have diverted jumpy and displaced audiences during the war, but arrived as the country was embracing a reassuring conformity and sudden sense of nouveau-country-club sophistication.

Discovery channel

As is usually the case with the shows 42nd Street Moon revives, the score is the main reason for resurrecting these neglected musicals. In the case of *Out of This World*, most of the songs will be discoveries for audiences. Porter's songs are never less than entertaining, and there are at least a couple of choice morsels, but he also seems to be recycling past formulas without the skill that first made them successful.

"Cherry Pies Ought to Be You" is a second-class cousin to "You're the Top." The rhyming couplets in the supposedly saucy "What Do You Think About Men?" and "I Sleep Easier Now" are surprisingly bland. And "Climb Up the Mountain" is a direct steal from the gospel standard "Go Tell It on the Mountain."

But the score also produced the swelling energies of "From This Moment On," which George Abbott cut before the show reached Broadway (and here restored), while "I Am Loved" is a high-class example of Porter's cookie-cutter love songs. Happy discoveries in-



Out of This World: Darlene Popovic, Caroline Altman, Stephanie Rhoads

clude "No Lover," which sounds crafted for Your Hit Parade success, and "Nobody's Chasing Me," a dowager's lament that finally cranks up some of Porter's risqué wit.

Director Greg MacKellan's new script is based largely on the pre-Abbott original and an adaptation that Howard Ashman (*Little Shop of Horrors*) prepared in the '70s. MacKellan also created a new character and added jokes (including heavy-handed references to Rock Hudson and Montgomery Clift) that make a gay subtext more overt.

MacKellan has cobbled together a story about a movie star on vacation in Greece who becomes the object of the god Jupiter's affections. Also at play in these fields of the gods are the star's new husband, Jupiter's jealous wife and amorous son Mercury, and a gossip columnist from Hollywood. It plays out smoothly enough, but it's still a rather dippy musical. The move to the Eureka Theatre from New Conservatory has let choreographer Jayne Zaban expand her musical staging. Dave Dobrusky is the industrious musical director.

The original production notably marked Charlotte Greenwood's return to Broadway, and Darlene Popovic is perfectly marvelous as her stand-in. Playing Juno, forever chasing after her philandering husband Jupiter, Popovic displays a wry sense of comedy, a big voice, and the physical acuity to go galloping across the stage.

As Mercury, who serves as narrator and procurer, Steve Rhyne may play this cute character a little too cutely, but also with an appealing talent. Stephanie Rhoads brings a glamorous veneer, a bright persona, and a pleasing voice to the vacationing movie star. As her new husband, Kurt Kroesche offers a sun-kissed countenance that suggests both ancient Greece and contemporary Hollywood.

lightweight voice and personality.

Like all successes, *Les Miserables* was in sync with its times. But classics are in sync with all times. Victor Hugo's novel is a classic. Its musical counterpart seems increasingly unlikely to become one as well. ▼

Les Miserables will run at the Curran Theatre through Sept. 16. Tickets are \$17-\$77. Call 512-7770.

Les Miserables

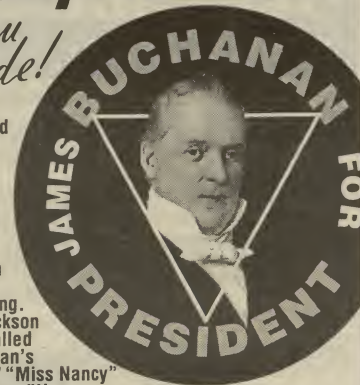
◀ previous page

Almedilla as the godforsaken Fantine, Aymee Garcia and J.P. Dougherty as the comically sinister Thénardiens, and Diana Kaarina as their pitiful daughter Eponine all impressively inhabit their characters. But as the young hero Marius, Tim Howar can get lost in the crowd, and as his beloved Cosette, Regan Thiel comes up short with a

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Out of This World will play at the Eureka Theatre through July 30. Tickets are \$22-\$25. Call 788-1125.

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Life during wartime

20th San Francisco Jewish Film Festival

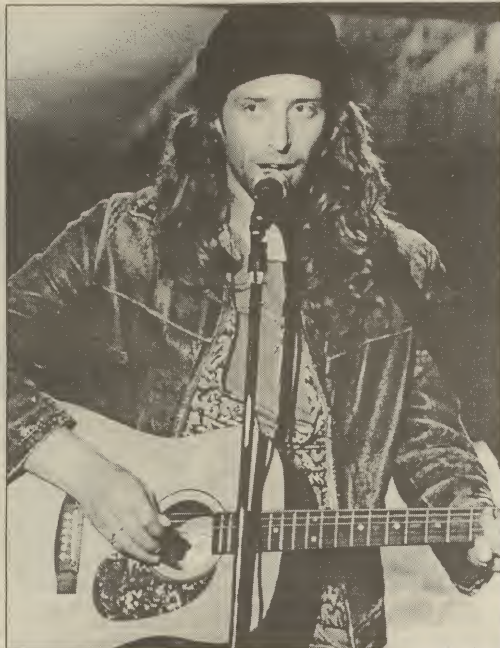
by David Lambie

The 20th Jewish Film Festival kicks off tonight at the Castro Theatre with a tasteful if zany comedy about a missing foreskin (*Dad on the Run/Cours Toujours*) and then proceeds to touch on virtually every important issue affecting the Jewish people in the 20th Century. The Festival places a particular emphasis on films documenting an extraordinary range of music, a 100th birthday tribute to Kurt Weill (*September Songs*), a BBC documentary on the "Fifth Beatle" (*The Brian Epstein Story*), the forgotten saga of the "White Louis Armstrong" (*Jazzman from the Gulag*), and a kickass homage to a generation of young Israeli musicians who worshipped at the temple of Pink Floyd just as the Yom Kippur War interrupted their dreams of pop immortality (*Vulcan Junction*).

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat marked their arrival last week at the Camp David peace talks with a playfully staged smiley little jig of a dance — as if each man were a bashful blushing bride and Clinton were the minister before whom they would both take their vows. The Jewish Film Festival examines the tortuous road to Camp David with a pair of documentaries demonstrating the painful obstacles to coexistence for two proud peoples.

The more hopeful of the two, *Peace of Mind* tells the ongoing attempts at friendship between a group of Israeli and Palestinian teenagers. In 1997, four Israeli and three Palestinian teenagers were each given video cameras and brought to a neutral setting (a Maine summer camp) to see if they could find common ground. Despite sometimes loud and tearful debates, friendships were formed, friendships that would be severely tested once both groups returned home. With an eerie echo of the attempts by American teens to cross racial lines in newly integrated high schools, *Peace of Mind* shows an Israeli teen, born and raised in a former Palestinian village, getting a phone call from the Arab boy who was his bunkmate at the American summer camp. "What's up, man. You're filming this? I need to comb my hair." The boys tease each other about a World Cup soccer match — the Israeli kid roots for Italy, the Arab boy is passionate for Brazil — the Israeli youth insisting that one of the players is Jewish. "The Jews are everywhere! Watch us." Later, the Palestinian youth notes that despite the frat-boy-like banter, there is still a conflict between him and his Jewish friend. A Palestinian girl wonders aloud if a handsome Jewish boy she likes might shoot her at a demonstration once he's drafted into the Israeli Army. (Castro, 7/23; UC Theatre, 7/30)

A much more somber take on Jewish/Arab reconciliation comes in the brutally frank story of a 1929 massacre of Jewish residents of a West Bank village by an armed Arab mob. Told in eyewitness accounts by survivors accompanied by documentary footage of the walking wounded, *What I Saw in Hebron* illustrates how hard it is to make hard and fast judgments about right and wrong or "good guys" vs. "bad guys" in a land

Danny Shteg in Eran Riklis' *Vulcan Junction*

where centuries of animosity peel back like layers of an onion yielding up at best ambiguous and often contradictory "truths." (Castro, 7/26; UC Theatre 7/31)

Uncivil servant

I sometimes joke to friends that my religion is practiced at movie temples where Woody Allen is Pope. The punchlines to a dozen Allen jokes played in my head as I watched the particularly surreal documentary *The Specialist*. "I've never had a relationship that's lasted longer than the one between Hitler and Eva Bruhn," or, "My name turned up on a list in Eichmann's pocket." Allen's Nazi one-liners come from his fabled standup routines in the early '60s, when the Holocaust was seldom alluded to, except in the blackest of comedy — that is, until Israeli agents seized a middle-aged German businessman in Argentina and accused him of being the civil servant in charge of The Final Solution. *The Specialist* was distilled from the over 500 hours of video recording Eichmann's 1961 trial.

The tapes of the Eichmann trial, digitally restored and tweaked by director Eyal Sivan (to reflect images of the trial's spectators on the glass booth of Eichmann's trial cage, among other ef-

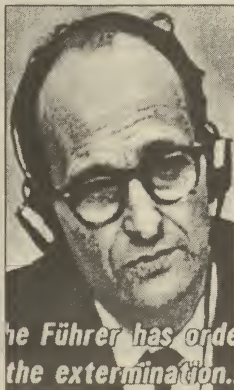
fects) are in stark contrast to the Hollywood version of the Nazi trials, *Judgment at Nuremberg*, where some act of contrition is plucked from the lips of a heartless villain. The real-life Eichmann never cracked, never admitted to being anything more than an obedient servant of higher authority. In fact, as *The Specialist* reveals, Eichmann's lowly rank obscured powers to commandeer resources of the Third Reich that exceeded those of all but the Fuhrer himself. The Eichmann trial, too, did much to assert the fledgling Jewish state's moxie and influence on the world stage. Ironically, the trial tapes and the 1,100-page Eichmann record of his deeds nearly failed to survive, and only after much wrangling did Israeli courts allow the world to again witness Eichmann's "bureaucratic crime." (Castro, 7/26; UC Theatre, 8/1)

Band boys

In the realm of pure entertainment and male eye candy, the Festival offers two Israeli comedies, *Vulcan Junction* and *Yana's Friends*, that play off the anxieties of adjusting to life in a land constantly at war. *Vulcan Junction* centers on a sexy band of long-haired Tel Aviv musicians looking for their big break — little suspecting their lives are to be changed not by success but by the fickle fortunes of war — a sneak attack by combined Arab armies on the most sacred holy day in the Jewish calendar. *Vulcan Junction* presents the Israeli version of '60s nostalgia, where all dreams and lifestyles seem but a break away from fulfillment, and where the hippie badges of identity can conceal some serious differences in goals and values.

Vulcan Junction is well-served by a kinetic visual style and a pulsating soundtrack with original Israeli rock nicely complemented by such chart-busters as Deep Purple, King Crimson, The Hollies, Jethro Tull and The Animals. (Castro, 7/26; UC Theatre, 7/30)

Yana's Friends is another film where romantic comedy is offset

Adolph Eichmann in *The Specialist*


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BOOKS

The not-so-notorious Mr. Bram

by Bob Findle

In gay literature, with many one- or two-title wonders, a search on author Christopher Bram brings up seven novels, from his 1987 debut work, *Surprising Myself*, up to his latest release, *The Notorious Dr. August: His Real Life and Crimes*. He is best-known for his 1995 *Father of Frankenstein*, about filmmaker James Whale, which was made into 1998's award-winning film *Gods and Monsters*.

Bram bucks the title "gay writer." Yes, he is openly gay and his novels are about gay people,

but the wide variety of topics and settings he chooses to craft into stories moves beyond the often-chosen coming out or AIDS story. Not that Bram has skipped these core themes. His first novel was about coming out and finding how sexuality fits into a young man's life experience. *In Memory of Angel Clare*, his third novel, follows the protagonist's life after the death of his lover. In the remaining books, Bram takes us anywhere from a wartime 1942 New York male brothel to a modern-day Internet-based mystery, to inside the world of diplomats assigned to Asia.

The Notorious Dr. August: His Real Life and Crimes is epic in scope (60 years, set in both America and Europe.) It starts near the end of the Civil War and goes up through the 1920s. It concerns an odd threesome: Augustus Fitzwilliam Boyd, a gay, piano-playing clairvoyant; Isaac Kemp, a former slave who is Boyd's best friend and lover; and Alice Pangborn, a Caucasian prim-and-proper nanny who ends up married to Kemp.

What unfolds is a detailed and often humorous story with complex characters who evolve with the times they live in. The novel examines sexuality and desire, both the homo and hetero variety; issues of race and class; and the dynamics of relationships, from friendships to lovers.

Although thick with historical persons (Johannes Brahms and Frederick Douglass) and well-described places (New York, Monte Carlo, Constantinople), the book



Author Christopher Bram

never gets bogged down; it's, as they say, "a page-turner."

From his New York home, Bram took some time to talk with the BAR about his new book, his writing process, and the making of *Gods and Monsters*.

Bob Findle: How did you dream up *Dr. August*? It's very different from the usual gay book.

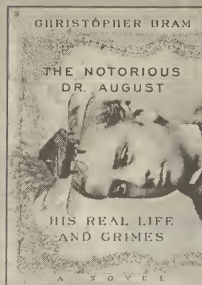
Christopher Bram: It was kicking around in my mind for awhile. Years ago, I stumbled upon this character named Jesse Shepard in Edwin Wilson's book about the Civil War, *Patriot Gore*. Shepard, who is better known as Francis Grierson, was a clairvoyant pianist, an improvisational piano player who claimed his music was dictated

to him by spirits. I forgot about Shepard until a few years later, when I read about him in David Bergman's book, *Gaiety Transfigured*, a collection of essays on gay literary figures. I thought he would make a great character for a novel, but at that time I had just finished *Father of Frankenstein* and didn't want to trap myself into writing about a factual person. So, after much hemming and hawing and resistance, I decided to make up my own clairvoyant pianist, and I came up with Fitz.

The things you make up read so realistically that people think they're fact.

Inventing things gives you a lot
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REVIEW



Ebony and Ivory

by Jim Nawrocki

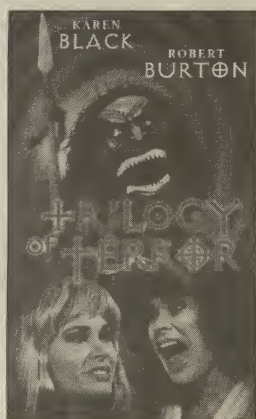
The Notorious Dr. August: His Real Life and Crimes by Christopher Bram; William Morrow and Co., \$26

Christopher Bram's new book, *The Notorious Dr. August: His Real Life and Crimes*, is a meticulously crafted novel, richly imagined and almost epic in its historical scope. The story begins in the America of the Civil War and ends, after sojourns that take the characters to Europe and back, in the America of the 1920s. Bram's attention to detail brings to life, vividly, a bygone America. His portrait of old New York, in particular, is reminiscent of E.L. Doctorow's *Ragtime* and, more recently, Caleb Carr's dark mystery novels *The Alienist* and *The Angel of Darkness*.

The story begins as Augustus Fitzwilliam Boyd, a young boy traveling as a kind of apprentice with his musician uncle, is captured by Rebel soldiers after he and his uncle are separated in the Virginia countryside. Though young and something of an effete, Augustus, who comes to be known as Fitz, is already quite worldly. He has come to loathe his uncle, a pompous, mean-spirited man who paradoxically belittles Fitz's musical abilities, but nevertheless visits his nephew's bed each night for more than just a goodnight kiss. Fitz's separation from his uncle is a personal liberation and the beginning of a long, wandering and wonderful adventure.

Soon after his capture,
page 43 ►

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An all-boy boyhood

Stephen Fry's boarding school memoir

by Deborah Peifer

My favorite conversations are never orderly. Rather, they meander from topic to tangent and loop back to the topic from another angle before going off on another tangent. By the end (which comes, inevitably, when time runs out, rather than words), we've come to some sort of conclusion, loose ends have been mostly tidied, and all involved long for another such dialogue as soon as possible.

What I'm getting at, you see, is the extraordinary experience of reading *Moab Is My Washpot* (Soho, \$13), the first of what I assume will be a series of autobiographical narratives by actor and writer Stephen Fry. Very roughly linear in design (Fry is younger at the beginning of the book than he is at the end), this extraordinary chronicle records the early years of an astonishing, sometimes troubled, always too-smart-for-his-

on the fact that boarding school did not make him gay, as that happy fact was discerned much earlier. "A friend of mine at university, asked when he knew he was gay, said that he distinctly remembered at the moment of his birth looking back up there and saying, 'Well! That's the last time I'm ever going up one of those...' I have since shamelessly used this as my own explanation of When I Knew." This is the book to read if you seek a deeper understanding of the whole boarding school experience. I found it a great help in making sense out of the Harry Potter books.

Fry's tone is conversational throughout, his observations astute, often funny, frequently filled with justifiable rage. His lengthy riff on homophobia is well worth the price of the book all on its own. He offers a list of things that are decidedly not to be ashamed of, including, but not limited to, farting, swearing, or inserting "things in one's mouth, anus or vagina for the purpose of pleasure, so long as they are not performed in sight or sound of those who would be pained — which also holds true of Morris dancing, talking about Tolkien and wearing velour. ... Politeness is all."

Moab Is My Washpot is a delightful read, with lots of laughs and more than a few tears. I can hardly wait for Volume Two.

Briefly

Alison Bechdel's latest collection, *Post-Dykes To Watch Out For* (Firebrand, \$11.95), follows *Mo* and the gang as they struggle to



illustrated by Diana Souza, which celebrates all that is good about families. In the interim, Alyson has published a 10th-anniversary edition which includes a slightly reworked text, and a fascinating

Afterword about the history of this much-censored story. Buy two copies, one to keep and one to share with a local library. The Wrong's new censorship effort involves stealing the books from the shelves.

Eric Anderson reads from *Trailblazing: The True Story of America's First Openly Gay Track Coach at a Different Light* on July 22 at 7:30 p.m. Also at ADL, Bonnie Morris reads from *Girl Reel: A Lesbian Remembers Growing Up at the Movies* on July 27 at 7:30 p.m.

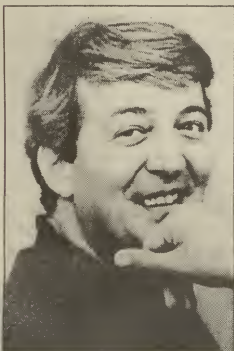
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If you have gossip, inquiries or information of a literary nature, send them to peifer@aol.com, or via snail mail to the B.A.R.

Book Report



Stephen Fry

own-good young man who overcomes serious troubles of his own making to be admitted, triumphantly, to Cambridge by the end of this volume.

As a privileged child of brilliant and successful parents, Fry was naturally bundled off to boarding school at the earliest possible moment, but he's a thoughtful enough writer to make certain that his readers understand that this was not the result of harshness or cruelty on the part of his parents. Boarding school was, at the time of Fry's youth, what was done. "What is forgotten by those who dislike the idea of children being sent away at an early (or any) age is the matter of expectation and custom. ... It was Life as I knew it."

Of course, Fry, as a joyously out gay man, has much to say about the pros and cons of same-sex schools for a boy with same-gender sex on his mind. He's clear

post-Dykes To Watch Out For



maintain, invent, and rethink identities in an ever-changing world. Bechdel captures our communities with tenderness and sometimes scathing wit. Don't miss it.

I have a fantasy (actually, I have several, but this is the one I'm going to share) that some day *Heather Has Two Mommies* (Alyson, \$10.95) will not be controversial. It will be regarded as a lovely tale, delightfully written by Lesléa Newman and charmingly

Jewish Film Fest

◀ page 34

by social satire and poignant reminders of life's darker moments. Yana is a young Jewish-Russian immigrant who is left pregnant and stranded in Tel Aviv when her sexy no-goodnik husband absconds with the bank loan that is supposed to set them up in their new country. To Yana's rescue comes the even sexier and tattooed Israeli filmmaker Eli, who spends his time waiting to split for American film school videing the most private moments and

body parts of a long parade of girlfriends.

Yana's fury at Eli's irrepressible voyeurism and the sudden threat of poison-gas Scud missile attacks throw Yana and Eli together in a unique brand of gas mask foreplay. Meanwhile, Yana's immigrant Russian neighbors have been using their war veteran grandfather as bait for profitable panhandling which runs afoul of the sudden reappearance of an old flame of Grandpa's. Yana's Friends is fueled by an appealing blend of slapstick situations and mordant kvetching. (Castro, 7/23; UC Theatre, 7/29)

A ribald variation on Yana's sexy farce is the French-Tunisian comedy *Would I Lie To You*, where Edouard, an out-of-work gentile, is mistaken for being Jewish and adopted by a Tunisian Jewish family of merchants who think he's a secularized European Jew and thus unfamiliar with their Middle-Eastern customs. A world where new money, bad taste and old values mix and match with hilarious results. (Castro, 7/22; UC Theatre, 8/3) ▼

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MUSIC

GALA Choruses' Festival 2000 Singing their way to SJ

by Jason Serinus

Once every four years, GALA Choruses, the nonprofit Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses, stages a Festival that unites lesbian and gay chorus and ensemble members and their fans from all over the planet. This year, from July 22-29, the Rainbow Women's Chorus of San Jose and the Silicon Valley Gay Men's Chorus will host this mammoth event, drawing open-throated singers from over 140 choruses to a seemingly nonstop week of concerts, parties and celebrations. GALA has commissioned four new choral works especially for this festival.

If you thought the Gay Games were special, get ready for a festival where every team wins. Opening Ceremonies kick off Saturday, July 22, 8 p.m. at the McEnery Convention Center, as Harvey Fierstein, Kate Clinton and over 6,000 gay and lesbian singers jump-start the world's largest 1/g music festival. Concerts by individual choruses and small ensembles begin on 7/23, with Sunday alone offering 36 different chorus performances; held concurrently in Civic Auditorium and the Center for Performing Arts, concerts are scheduled between 1 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. (The San Francisco and Los Angeles Gay Men's Choruses close out the evening.)

Monday and Tuesday's schedules begin at 2 p.m. Tuesday offers a choice of two different shows at 8 p.m. that may serve as a litmus test for taste: the *Celebrating Women Concert* in Civic Auditorium, uniting Holly Near, Rhiannon, Linda Tillery and hundreds of women in a celebration of women's music; and *The World's Greatest No Talent Show* in the Center for Performing Arts, featuring a one-man Wizard of Oz tour de force, eight Ethel Mermans, a flamingo-riding cowboy who out-yodels Julie Andrews, and more acts than are fit to print.

Allowing some time for recovery, Wednesday's concerts begin at a merciful 3 p.m. Thursday has our singers croaking for their lives at an ungodly 9:45 a.m., saving whatever they can for *Laugh Out Loud*, a 7 p.m. Center for the Performing Arts event featuring comics



Tucson, Arizona's gay and lesbian chorus, Desert Voices, will appear in a benefit performance for Theatre Rhinoceros on Tuesday, July 25 at 8 p.m. on the Theatre Rhinoceros Mainstage. Tickets (\$12): call 861-5079.

Suzanne Westenhoefer and Paul J. Williams. Friday at 9:45 p.m. variously offers encore performances by favorite choruses, the winners of the Young Composers Competition, and lots of cough drops.

Four-part screaming

The singing stops at 5 p.m., making way for the 8 p.m. annual *Gay & Lesbian Night at Great America*, promising four-part screams from the roller coasters. Saturday again begins at 9:45 a.m. with the Lesbian and Gay Chorus of San Francisco intoning last rites, and the Voices of Kentuckiana mopping up the ashes at 3:30 p.m. The Legacy Awards Dinner, beginning 5:15 p.m. at the McEnery Convention Center, features co-chair Armistead Maupin and a live auction that includes a guitar signed by Melissa Etheridge, Garth Brooks, and kd lang. McEnery Center Closing Ceremonies at 8:30 p.m. star funnyman Bruce Vilanch and diva Nell Carter; everyone will sing the Grande Finale anthem composed by superb Canadian singer-songwriter David Sereda.

The "largest lesbian and gay convention on earth" also features a McEnery Convention Center "gay mall." Opening July 22 at Noon, it features exhibits, shopping, free massages, and choruses "from around the world," including Anna Crusis Women's Choir (Philadelphia), the Pink Singers (London), and the New York City Gay Men's Chorus. \$2.50 from every admission will be donated to the Billy DeFrank Lesbian & Gay Community Center.

The main www.galachoruses.org web page contains links to all chorus concerts and associated events. Tickets via Ticketmaster (408) 998-TIXS, or at Tower Records and Rite Aid stores throughout the Bay Area.

Formed in 1982, GALA Choruses, the nonprofit Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses, currently supports 180 member choruses and 10,000 singers. Member choruses are located in Australia, Belgium, Canada, England, France, Germany, Ireland, Scotland and the USA. ▼

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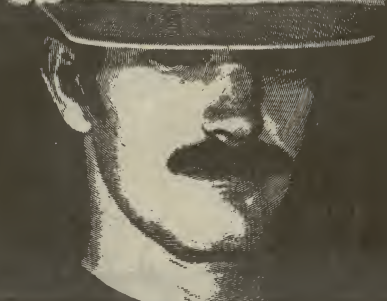
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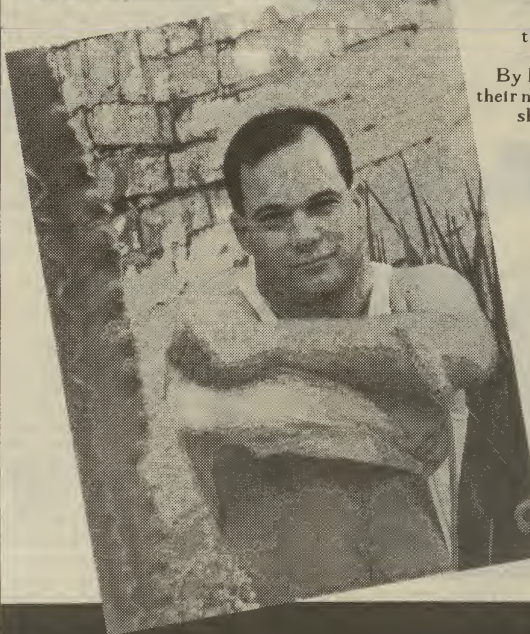
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Secrets and lies

'Come Back to the Five and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean' at the Castro

by Gary Morris

Camp impresario Marc Huestis' extravaganzas at the Castro Theatre have become part of local queer legend, and the latest offering, a *Ho-Down with Karen Black*, looks to be a typically demented and satisfying entry. Normally, Hostess Dearest resurrects someone on the downside of the Hollywood power curve, from faded child stars (*The Bad Seed's* Patty McCormack) to yesterday's blonde-of-the-hour (Carole Lynley) to the bitter spawn of monster-divas (Christina Crawford, natch). With Friday night's "ho-down" (note the vicious spelling), he's deviated a bit by sprinkling his fairy dust on an authentic, respected working actress. And the film he's chosen, while no classic, is more serious than such campfests of earlier events as *The Poseidon Adventure* or the extramindless *Valley of the Dolls*. (We won't dwell on the trashier possibilities Huestis passed over: perhaps her first film, the 1960 *Hell Kitten*, was unavailable. Of course, he could have picked this year's *House of 1000 Corpses*.)

The film he did choose is a good one: Robert Altman's *Come Back to the Five and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean*. This 1982 queer-tinged psychodrama is set in a dusty, nowhere town in Texas that, like the women in it, had a brief moment of glory when the film *Giant* was shot there. When the film crew left and the sets were abandoned, the women remained to drift into the peculiar entropy occupied by lonely, aging women in the forgotten American heartland.

Jimmy Dean, made for cable TV and shot in real time, sits in on a two-hour reunion of these women, a group of old pals who reunite in a failing Woolworth's to celebrate their 20-year-old obsession with the famous dead actor of the title. These "Disciples of Jimmy Dean" are a diva-watcher's dream. There's Cher as a raunchy good-time girl whose allegedly devoted husband vanished two years ago. There's Kathy Bates as a pushy parvenu who abuses her mousy, simple-minded friend (played by Marta Heflin). There's one of Hollywood's great neurotics, Sandy Dennis, as a delusional asthmatic who insists her supposedly retarded son was fathered by James Dean. Most intriguing for queer viewers is Karen Black's Joanne, a Kansas City sophisticate of dubious gender who returns to claim the Big Secret prize in a group of



Sandy Dennis, Cher, and Karen Black in *Come Back to the Five and Dime*

women loaded with them.

In the stage play on which the movie was based, Altman created a double set, one a mirror of the other, to show the past's relentless control over the present. In the film, he gets a similar effect by using double exposures, blackouts and sudden illuminations, and period music — mostly the homely harmonies of the McGuire Sisters — that carry his characters back and forth, ready or not, in an endless go-round between then and now.

The effect of this is powerful if contrived, with each diva getting her moment to carry on at length about the particular curse of her past. While it's tempting to detail the surprises for those who haven't seen the film, it's probably unnecessary: the film telegraphs them to all but the most inattentive viewers. (Irresistible hint: Watch for Cher's constant fiddling with, and prattling about, her breasts.) Some of the play's conceits compromise the film with their obviousness — the heavy-handed symbolism of the drought and the ominous rumblings that presage a rainstorm that never arrives; the wearying schema of revelation and retrenchment by each character.

But there are compensating virtues. The nervous, prowling camera, overlapping dialogue, judicious close-ups, and strong performances in Altman's best films make them exceptional in creating a palpable sense of life. *Jimmy Dean* has some of this. The standout among the actors is Sandy Dennis, who almost carries the film — unusual for an Altman ensemble piece — as the wheezing wreck whose fantasy world is constantly threatened by the other characters. She's a marvel to

watch, stumbling and stuttering and twitching, always fresh as she lurches through her increasingly frayed fantasy world with words meant to protect, resist, wound. The others acquit themselves well, and even when the dialogue stumbles, as it often does, the actresses pull it off with brio. The one exception is Sudie Bond's Juanita, a religious nut who's strictly stock.

Problematic for the modern queer viewer is the pivotal character of Joe/Joanne (Karen Black), whose return triggers the mountain of revelations that both terrify and liberate the others by forcing them to tell the truth. She's typical of a certain kind of familiar androgynous movie presence — sophisticated, evasive, vaguely scary, even frightening — and she milks it with a performance that's equal parts pathetic vulnerability and ruthless power. Her alter ego, the sensitive male homo figure who's brutalized (raped, in fact) by the uncomprehending straights around him, is equally familiar if less welcome. Such characters are still with us whether we like it or not — Greg Kinnear's whimpering, assaulted queen in *As Good As It Gets* comes to mind — but Altman at least gives his version of the character some serious humanity in his brief, poetic, ghostly appearances.

On a more upbeat note, this diversion will bring out some of San Francisco's most notable drag queens. The inimitable Arturo Galster will reprise his Patsy Cline, the redoubtable Connie Champagne will warble till she drops, and the glorious Matthew Martin and his sister Cathy will unleash a fresh thrill on an audience that no doubt thinks it's seen it all: The Juggs! ▼

Summertime

◀ page 32

relationships are also explored.

The setting is an estate at Martha's Vineyard, but it's a make-believe world these characters inhabit. Kate Boyd's set comes equipped with Astroturf-covered lawn chairs and a stage floor painted as the sky. People move in slow motion, and arrive like characters in a Fellini movie. The movie conceit is cemented when flickering lights suggests projected film and the characters lip-sync to their pre-recorded dialogue. Elaborate dances and stripteases arrive as suddenly as does a psychopathic pizza deliveryman.

But as you cut through all the fanciful trappings, the messages don't arrive through the characters' interactions but through their speeches. And even in that, it's hard to find more than clichés. "What's the point of life," says one character, "if it's not to live it?"

The cast can't be faulted for the frustrations of the play. Nina Gold and Omar Metwally are highly appealing as the main romantic pair, whose story is often shunted to the side. Tina Osinski amusingly plays the ingénue's mother as if she just wandered in from a 1960s Euro-art film. Andrew Hurteau brings an overheated greasy charm to her lover, while David Roche handles her forgotten husband with sensitivity, though not

always easy intelligibility.

James Mark is attractive and rambunctious as the boy-toy who offers solace to the husband, while Delia MacDougall and Celia Shuman effectively handle multiple roles. Especially effective is John Flanagan as a butler, a psycho pizza man, and a German mama's boy.

Meek explored many of the same issues more effectively in *Big Love*, a hit of this year's Humana Festival of New American Plays and slated for Berkeley Rep next season. His look at love in *Summertime* is more like a sloppy wet kiss. ▼

Summertime through 7/23 at the Magic Theatre. Tickets (\$25-\$30): Call 441-8822.

COVER STORY

Karen Black

◀ Arts cover

such as George Hickenlooper (*Dogtown* in 1997) and Ron Cosentino (*Fallen Arches* in 1998) seek her services. They're thrilled to have her, too, as they were weaned on her great early movies made by eternally hip directors such as Francis Ford Coppola, Bob Rafelson, Robert Altman and Alfred Hitchcock.

Great pretense

One hundred and twenty-five and counting — how does she do it? "You have to remember that I do character roles that last a week or two," she says. "In this new one, *Gypsy* 83, I play a woman who pretends she was once a great recording star. She wasn't. It's a wonderful part." So goes the nomadic life of the actor. Black has been so dedicated for so long that she was profiled in *Karen Black: Actress at Work* (1999), a documentary by Kerry Feltham, and was recently featured in a *Wall Street Journal* article which predicted she will exceed John Wayne's career total of 183 movies. Hers is an ego-controlling approach to screen-acting. An actor accepts work, does the job and moves on. Awards, mega-salaries, even career planning are just so much fluff. "She's eccentric in her career choices," says Huestis. "She's become an offbeat icon."

Of all of Black's many movies, the choice of *Jimmy Dean* at the Castro is inspired. It's somewhat rare, not available on video, and showcases Altman in his difficult time between *Nashville* and *The Player* (1992), which features Black as herself. "I worked harder on *Jimmy Dean* than any movie I've ever done," comments Black. "It involved months of preparation. I discovered early on that my character is not a transvestite but a transsexual first. She was a man, and then there's an effort toward womanhood. It was a challenge to be both. I was advised by a transsexual on walking, lipstick, clothing. We did the show on Broadway first, and there was a lot of pain in producing the role."

Set in the dusty Texas outback, *Jimmy Dean* has a bevy of actresses tearing at the material like so many piranhas. While Cher has a certain "Look, Ma, I'm acting!" brassiness and Sandy Dennis wheels out her endearing if familiar inventory of mannerisms, Black underplays and effectively registers the biggest impression. As the mysterious Joanne, her contrast to the others is startling. When she makes her late entrance, she's like an exotic flower in a hog barn. As a tranny, she's perplexing, alluring and threatening to the yokels already camped out at the Five and Dime. Their ignorant responses to her are predictable, but her steadfast dignity is an acting choice worthy of cheers. She is by turns reserved, self-protective, coy, "out," furious and ultimately sympathetic. It's a bravura display, and damn if she doesn't look like a woman who was once a man.

Of Altman, she is unequivocal. "I love him and everyone who has worked with him loves him. He's free, experimental, probably a genius, and loves calamity and confusion. He speaks a lot for what life really is; he doesn't try to shave reality down to something that is easily photographed." Still, she remembers the hard shoot back in '82, when he was out of favor and was having trouble getting financed. "He came to the set on the first day and said, 'We don't have a lot of money.' We were in a lousy place with one dressing room for

all of us. I like to take naps on the set, and I wound up sleeping on a bedroll between takes. It was rough, but we made a truly fabulous film."

Memorable meltdowns

Black's lack of pretense, as well as her emotional bravery, show through in performances again and again. Who can forget her plucky stewardess with an itch for that beastly Charlton Heston in *Airport '75* (1974), or her starlet wandering the Boulevard of Broken Dreams in *The Day of the Locust* (1975)? Remember her meltdown at an outdoor café in *Can She Bake a Cherry Pie?* (1983) or screaming her guts out in *Invaders from Mars* (1986)? More recently, there was her blind lesbian psychoanalyst with a indecipherable accent in *Men* (1998), from a script she co-wrote. Now try to imagine her slightly older serious-as-cancer contemporaries Jane Fonda or Faye Dunaway taking such risks, and you can appreciate the special gift that is Black.

Her tender-hearted and slow-witted vulgarian Rayette Dipesto in *Five Easy Pieces* brought her stardom and an Oscar nomination. It's a performance for the ages; that movie is simply unimaginable without Black. She proved a great foil for Jack Nicholson's social dropout — through her, we observe just how thoroughly he has rejected his birthright and talent. In seeing the movie today, what strikes on first impact is the perfect ending that sneaks up on the audience, and Rayette, by quiet surprise. "The ending was put there at the end of the shoot," Black informs. "The director [Rafelson] and writer [Adrien Joyce] didn't agree, and the director's version won out.

Karen Black in *Burnt Offerings*, 1976

Even though that movie feels very loose, it's amazing how kempt the plot is."

In *Nashville*, she was vicious perfection as a singer not quite on top. Anyone who has ever been inches from the crown of glory will revel in Black's barely contained loathing of Opry queen Barbara Jean, played with Loretta Lynnish overtones by Ronlee Blakley. (Another reason to rejoice: a reprinted *Nashville* is coming to the Castro August 5 for its 25th birthday.)

If further evidence of Black's master status is needed, there's *Trilogy of Terror*, the no-budget 1975 TV-movie featuring her in

four distinct roles in three short "terrifying" tales. Number three has become an unlikely minor classic, as Black is the only human onscreen battling an ill-tempered doll that has come to life and wants her for dinner. "It's not great filmmaking," Black is quick to mention. "But the subject itself is profoundly upsetting to 'everyman.' Here is something very small and discountable that should be easy to dispense with, but it overcomes you." Considering the modesty of the production, Black creates amazing sustained tension. She was so effective, in fact, that she has made a career specialty of horror, appear-

ing in features whose titles tell all: *It's Alive III: Island of the Alive* (1987), *Evil Spirits* (1990), *Fatal Encounter* (1990), *Auntie Lee's Meat Pies* (1993) and *Plan 10 From Outer Space* (1997).

No goopy-eyed love stories or bikini-clad 007 flicks litter Black's résumé. She has always been too complicated to be a conventional leading lady. She is a contradictory organism with a sweetly childlike voice that can erupt into ear-piercing shrieks or float through tender ballads. Her somatic presence is similarly intriguing, with her voluptuous body, generous lips and flowing tresses. Those beady eyes can appear slightly crossed, then bulge convincingly at the site of a corpse, alien or some other offense to genteel living. Just as quickly, they can turn murderously icy. "On the surface, her characters are ditzy, but underneath she's in control," observes Huestis. And she seems at all times a wee bit demented and menacing, which of course is part of her enduring appeal. There is something subversive and dangerous inside that overactive mind, and it never fails to register on her expressive face.

So maybe Karen Black is one of the modern screen's great under-valued talents. And maybe the July 21 fete will provide one small step toward reparation. How does she feel about this special attention? "I'm charmed, I'm surprised, and I hope everyone will have a good time."

Extreme possibility of that, Miss Black. ▼

Ho-Down with Karen Black, Friday, July 21, 7 p.m. at the Castro Theatre. Tickets (\$15-20): call 863-0611.



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OUT & ABOUT

Fri 21

Theatre Rhinoceros

Return engagement: "Broadway Ball-Busters," the fast-paced musical revue created by Eric Brizze and Alan Fricke, directed by Allen Sawyer and John Karr. A 90-minute gay musical comedy on how men enthrall, charm, seduce and exploit one another. Featuring gay spins on such show tunes as "What Do You Think About Men" (*Out of this World* by Cole Porter); "No Man is Worth It" (*Dance a Little Closer* by Alan Jay Lerner & Robert Strouse); "Cellblock Tango" (*Chicago* by John Kander & Fred Ebb); and "Men" (*Nick & Nora* by Richard Maltby Jr. & Charles Strouse). With J. Guevara and Gary Wayne Faris, plus Scott Stewart on piano. \$15-\$20. 8pm (3pm Sun.). Thur.-Sun. thru July 30. 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Luna Sea

"DykeDrama Festival," short plays by and about dykes presented by Luna Sea Women's Performance Project. \$17 door (\$14 advance). 8pm. Thru Aug. 5. 2940 16th St. (btwn Capp & S. Van Ness). Tix at A Different Light and Mama Bears. Info: www.lunasea.org

New Conservatory Theatre Center

Ron Jones performs "Buddha Blues,"

a one-man show of poetry, storytelling and jazz, relating the true story of a man growing up in San Francisco. Percussion and piano by Linton Hale; video imagery by Damon Molloy. \$10. 8pm (2pm Sun.). Thru July 30. 25 Van Ness Ave. (at Market). 861-8972.

Goat Hall

Summer Festival of Cabaret Opera, featuring Mozart's "The Magic Flute," fully staged (cabaret style), performed by member of the Mozart Master Class and professional singers. Dietrich Erbeling conducts the Virtual Orchestra. Directed by Harriet March Page. \$15 (\$10 students/seniors). 8pm. Thru August 6. 400 Missouri St. (at 19th St.). 289-6877; www.goathall.org

The Next Stage

Opening night: "The Shadow Box," the Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize-winning play written by Michael Cristofer ("Witches of Eastwick" screenplay). It explores the ways three families deal with the deaths of people they love. Sheila Lopez directs. Featured actors include Mario Calitzin, Joe Canose, Gina Delaney, Nancy Guzan, Duane Johnson, Vladislav Komanofsky, Kitty Newman, Lisa Ricci, and Tony Williams. 8pm. Fri., Sat. (8pm) & Sun. (7pm) thru August 13. 1620 Gough St. (at Bush). Info: 778-4050.



Glen Park

The San Francisco Mime Troupe presents its all-new musical satire, "Eating It," with a look at the specter of market-driven genetic engineering. Free. 1:30pm music; 2pm show. Info: 285 1717; www.sfmt.org

A Different Light

Eric Anderson reads from *Trailblazing: The True Story of America's First Openly Gay Track Coach*. Anderson, a coach at Huntington Beach High School in Orange County, tells the story of his coming-out at the start of four memorable running seasons. Free. 7:30pm. 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

Aunt Charlie's Lounge

"Girls Just Wanna Have Fun," a weekly drag revue hosted by Gypsy Calabrese, with guest appearances by "En Drag" performers. No cover. Shows at 10pm & midnight.

133 Turk St. (at Taylor). 441-2922.

El Rio

Two events. First, from 3-8pm on the patio, "Mango," a "sweet sexy dance party for women," featuring DJs Edaj & Chill spinning hip hop, dance hall, salsa, soca & samba. Free (includes omnivore barbecue 3-5pm). Second, at 10pm, live music with local bands 100 Watt Smile, Jeff Jack, SpeedLimit, and Delmarva. \$5 cover. Door opens 9pm. 21+ w/ID. 3158 Mission St. (btwn Caesar Chavez and Valencia). 282-3325.

Sun 23

Stern Grove

The Stern Grove Festival presents "Global Divas," a foot-stomping musical fete with renowned South African vocalist Miriam Makeba and world-music artists Alabina, featuring Ishlar and Gypsy musicians Los Niños de Sera. Plus a Women's Wellness Information Resource Fair of information booths. Free. 2pm (arrive early to claim a picnic spot). Sigmund Stern Grove, 19th Ave. at Sloat. Info: 252-6252; www.sterngrove.org

A Different Light

Singer Willis Moore greets fans and signs copies of his new CD, *So Far*, imbued with Moore's trademark intimate vocals on lounge and cabaret standards. Free. 3:30pm.

SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoor lovers for a Five Brooks to Bass Lake hike in Pt. Reyes and enjoy hiking, bird watching and swimming. It's a moderate 8-12 mile hike with a 1,100-ft. elevation gain. Meet 9am under the large Safeway sign at Dolores & Market. Club info: 487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

Cowell Theater/Ft. Mason

Summerfest/dance 2000 presents "Dance Film Series," screening ZYNC, a film by Cynthia Pepper; *Isadora Duncan: Movement from the Soul*, a film by Dayna Goldfine and Dan Geller; *Office Furniture*, directed and choreographed by Rebecca Salzer, and *The Turning Point* (1977), starring Mikhail Baryshnikov and Leslie Brown. Filmmakers Pepper, Salzer, Goldfine and Geller will speak. \$5 (\$1 dance students). 2pm. Fort Mason Center. 441-3687.

Ellard Hall

"Gay Men's Social," hosted by Midlife Gay Men (MGM), open to all gay and bisexual men in midlife. An afternoon of fun creating a new organization, networking and socializing. Sponsored by Most Holy Redeemer Support Group. Free. Refreshments served. 1-4pm. 100 Diamond St. Info: 863-1581.

Paradise Lounge

Preview: The Tuck & Roll Players perform "Club Inferno," a rock 'n' roll drag revue featuring Connie Champagne, Arturo Galster, Leigh Crow,

Calendare by Mark Mardon

Net radio

I've gotten over chat rooms and have downloaded more porn images than I can safely consume; now I've turned my modem to something far more exciting: streaming audio. Until I got my hands on a fast connection, I couldn't appreciate what was happening music-wise out there in cyberspace, but now that I'm fully equipped, I'm in awe of what I've found. Download the appropriate tuner from a place like **Aladdin Systems** (Aladdin.com) or **RealPlayer.com**, and the world of cyber-radio unfolds dramatically. I'm especially fond of commercial-free, alternative radio programs, and in these realms, the Internet far surpasses in quality and abundance anything being broadcast over the airwaves in the U.S., owing to government suppression of micro radio-stations. On the Net, all radio flourishes; there are no pirates, just adventurers.

Many of the available tuners sort broadcasts (or, rather, netcasts) into categories such as classical, rock, alternative, techno/dance, college, comedy, news, gospel, Latin, country, blues and the like. My favorite virtual tuner to date is the Aladdin Tuner, which allows you to point to any country (and the continent of Antarctica) on its world map and click on any number of radio stations, all instantly accessible with quality sound (some stereo, some not). You can also search the entire world for easy-listening stations, or government stations, or pretty much any style or type of content you desire.

For all you drama queens, there's a radio show called "A Night at the Movies" (<http://users1.50megs.com/vulture>) that netcasts an endless stream of tunes from your favorite flicks, TV shows and video games. It delivers a decent mix of everything from overblown *Star Wars* scores to the familiar ditty from *Peanuts* animated films, to songs from just about every musical ever recorded.

Classical music abounds on the Net, with **BBC Radio** leading the way (www.bbc.co.uk), but in stiff competition from netcasters throughout the Americas, Asia, Australia, Europe and elsewhere.

New York boasts some kick-ass rock/alternative/dance stations, such as **Next World Entertainment Zone** (www.nwec.netout), which netcasts an amalgam of rock, hip-hop, trance and whatnot, all very cutting edge. **The Womb**, out of Florida, delivers video of deejays spinning the latest sounds — as do many Net stations. Out of Dublin, Ireland come potent audio/video netcasts on **XFM Audio** (<http://isis.ie/xfm>), while from London comes **Virgin Radio Live** (www.virginradio.com), a commercial enterprise with a megastore inventory. For recorded alternative programs, the best SF source is **Beta Lounge** (www.betalounge.com), where snappy deejays package their best hits weekly, available to play at the click of a mouse.

Opera buffs will love **OperadiO.com** out of England, which offers high-quality programming day in and day out, featuring interviews with divas, artistic directors, conductors and others on its website.

San Diego is the source of **World Music Radio Live**, where you'll find beats from many continents, though you can go directly to the source by surfing channels from Africa, if that's where your heart lies. My favorite "folky" channel comes out of Maryland. **Hober Live** (www.hober.com) delivers everything from Smoky Robinson to Pete Seeger to Arlo Guthrie, all in a folksy way, with titles of songs displayed along with down-home pithy observations with a 21st-century country twist: Each saying has a link to some obscure website. ▼

Theater Artaud

Summer in the City's "Conciertos de Tambores Residencia," with John Santos and The Machete Ensemble demonstrating their mastery of Afro-Latin percussion. \$15 & \$18. 8:30pm. 450 Florida St. 437-2700.

Noh Space

Class Force Theatre presents Eric Overmyer's "On the Verge," a time-warping comedy about Victorian-era lady travelers who follow a cracked compass into the year 1955. \$15. 2840 Mariposa St.

Dean Lescher Center, Walnut Creek

The Barbary Coast Cloggers perform "Appalachian Overdrive," a hoedown with bluegrass recording artists Sidesaddle & Co. plus step/tap master Ira Bernstein. A cast of more than 20 performers relate the history of American step dance. \$17 (\$15 students/seniors; \$13 under 12). 8pm. Also on July 22. Hoffman Theatre, Dean Lescher Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Tix: (925) 943-SHOW.

Jon Sims Center

AIRspace and Metal Pig Productions presents a workshop production of "A Gravity Fable," a bittersweet and otherworldly dance-theater tale set in a kingdom where the birds are dying of a mysterious epidemic. The piece weaves the choreography of charged space and text tightly around three women. Featuring Susan Maxwell, victoria mcnicol kelly, and Cinzia Sperou Goeleker. \$5-\$10 donation (NOTAFLOR). 8:30pm. Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts, 1519 Mission St. 661-6858.

MACT Video Night

Men of All Colors Together gather for a showing of *Wilde*. \$2 contribution; refreshments served. 7pm. 490 Collingwood St. (at 22nd St.), Apt. 3. Info: 675-0201.

Red Vic Movie House

Documentary double bill: *Theremin: An Electronic Odyssey* and *Better Living Through Circuitry*. Learn about Leon Theremin's weird, hands-off electronic music instrument, and about the wild electronic dance music scene. \$6.50. 7:15 and 9:15pm. Also on July 22. 1727 Haight. Info: 668-3994. (The cozy, worker-owned & operated Red Vic Movie House celebrates its 20th birthday on July 25.)

The Werepad

The "Endless Summer" of Ski Movies presents *The Last of the Ski Bums*, starring Dick Barrymore (1969). Made by same team that produced *The Endless Summer*, the film details exploits of three men who win a large sum of money and spend it on long ski holiday. \$5 donation. 9:30pm doors;

The Barbary Coast Cloggers high step at Walnut Creek's Dean Lescher Center. See Friday.

10:30pm show. 2430 3rd St. (btwn 20th and 22nd sts). Info: 824-7334.

KALW (91.7 FM)

Outright Radio presents "Sissies," the latest in the half-hour broadcast series "Uncommon Stories from Queer Folks." Tonight author Gary Glickman reads from his new novel, *Body English*, about growing up a delicate boy and facing off with the grade-school bully. Then Joe Collins (aka Trauma Flintstone) talks about his life as a sissy boy and coming into his adulthood as a Power Sissy. Produced by David Gilmore; edited by Joan Schuman. 7:30pm. Info: www.OutrightRadio.org

Triple R, Russian River

Songstress Sharon McNight performs at her old stopping ground at the Russian River for a one-night-only concert during the Lazy Bear Weekend festivities. Boston Cabaret singer Ernie Lijoi will be opening for McNight. All proceeds benefit Positive Resource center of San Francisco, Under One Roof, AIDS Emergency Fund of Sonoma County, Food For Thought of Sonoma County, and The Ken Day Fund of Sacramento. \$10. 8-10pm. Info: Harry Lit, Castrobear Presents (415) 681-3877

Sat 22

SomArts Gallery

"Counter-Couture," a Runway Fashion Show production featuring 12 local designers whose esthetic and attitude is anti-establishment. With funk, hip-hop, rock, jazz and house sounds by anti-fashion maven DJ Polywog (Groove). Fabric8.com, sample sale, and a "Fashion Industry Cocktail Party." The show promises to lead attendees "out of the '90s 'all black' cul de sac." \$5. 8pm. 934 Brannan St. (at 8th St.).

A Clean, Well-Lighted Place for Books

Shirley MacLaine signs copies of her new book, *The Camino: A Journey of the Spirit*, the story of her pilgrimage along the Santiago de Compostela Camino in Spain. The 500-mile trek was both an intense spiritual and physical challenge for MacLaine. She takes readers on a literal and metaphorical journey. Free. 1pm. Opera Plaza, 601 Van Ness Ave. 441-6670.

Gary Wayne Farris, J. Guevara and Eric Brizee belt out *Broadway BallBusters* at Theatre Rhinoceros. See Friday.



Ryan Montgomery

Trauma Flintstone, Kennedy, Peter Fogel, and Birdie-Bob Watt. \$15. 8pm. Previews also on July 30. Opens in August. 308 11th St. 621-1911.

Mon 24

Piaf's

QComedy.com openly presents "Gay Comedy Showcase" with featured performer Scott Kennedy of the Gay Comedy Jam, plus Dana Cory, Nancy Guaquiere, Paul Olson, Tommy Barnard, Janis Lipton, Maggie Dolan and Bridget Schwartz. Hosted by Nick Leonard. \$5. 8pm. 1686 Market St. (at Gough). 541-5610.

Noh Space

Yugen presents Mutama, a six-woman vocal/percussion ensemble. Their music combines influences from the Middle East, Southern and West Africa, and Vietnam with American folk, gospel and contemporary styles. 8pm. 2840 Mariposa St. (btwn Alameda & Florida sts.). Info: 621-0507. Tix: 621-7978.

Tue 25

A Different Light

Sylvia Brownrigg reads from *Ten Women Who Shook the World*, stories of zany women, including one who talks to birds and another whose memories include a library at the bottom of a pond. Free. 7:30pm.

CellSpace

"Tuesday Roller Dance Jam," a roller

disco jamboree with everything from funk to hip-hop to techno to inspire your smooth moves. Don cool threads and "skate yr brains out." Skates provided by Skates on Haight. \$12 door. Doors open 7pm; show at 8pm. Info: 752-8375.

Live Oak School

Foggy City Dancers host a free introductory demonstration and lesson in square dancing for all members of the LGBT community. 7:30-9:30pm. 117 Diamond (parking lot entrance). Foggy City holds dances, picnics and other events. Info: 905-4546; www.foggycity.org

Wed 26

Le Palais Nostalgique, Pier 27/29

"Teatro Zinzanni" the magical/luxurious circus of music, comedy, theatrics and gourmet dining in an elegant tent, featuring Kevin Kent as the mercurial Chef de Cuisine, with an international cast of acrobats, trapeze artists, actors, clowns, magicians, musicians, and vocalists. \$85 summer special (Wed. & Thur. only; \$125 Fri.-Sun.). 6:30pm (5:30pm Sun.). Indefinite run. Embarcadero at Battery. Info: 438-2668; www.teatrozinzanni.org

Orpheum Theatre

The Best of Broadway Series presents the epic musical "Titanic," about you-know-what. Based on the real-life stories of Titanic passengers and crew, including John Jacob Astor IV, one of the richest men in the world, and his new wife Madeleine, heavy with child.

\$40-\$75. 8pm. Thru Aug. 20. 1192 Market St. (at Hyde & 8th). 551-2000; www.bestofbroadway-sf.com

A Different Light

Rabbi Michael Lerner reads from *Spirit Matters*. Lerner is a pro-gay and progressive rabbi at SF's congregation Beyt Tikun, and the editor of *Tikkun Magazine*. Free. 7:30pm.

Space 743

Ongoing exhibition: "Societal Artifacts," an exhibition of five Visual Aid artists, Charles Blierwirth, Elliott Linwood, Margaret Herscher, Alex Rothwell, and Joel Hoyer. Wed.-Sat., noon-5pm (and by appointment). 743 Harrison St. 777-9080.

Thu 27

ODC Theater

Opening night: "N. A. Play for None and All," an "unsung opera" in which Nick Scoggin plays Nietzsche (N.). The story roughly traces the life of the German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900) as he grapples with mental and physical instability. With three dreamlike, dance-oriented interludes choreographed by Mary Carabona. Original music by Jonathan Alford and Howard Hain. \$18. 8pm. Thru August 6. 3153 17th St. Tix: 863-9834; www.ticketweb.com

New Conservatory Theatre Center

Teenagers from Teen Summerstock perform the classic comedy of manners "You Can't Take It With You," directed by Gwen Loeb. For ages 10 and up. \$5 children (\$3 each for groups of 10 or more); \$7 adults. 8pm (2pm Sun.). Thru July 29. 25 Van Ness Ave. (at Market). 861-4914.

Venue 9

Footloose presents "C n' C Cuban Factory," written and performed by Jane Aquilina and Gina Ottoboni-Stahl who play saucy, sexy sisters Carmelita and Consuela Alameda de las Pulgas. A comedic production inviting audience participation. \$12-\$15 sliding. 8pm. Thru Aug. 5. 252 Ninth St. (btwn Folsom & Howard). 289-2000; www.ftloose.org

City Nights

"Club Faith," SF's only 18+ gay nightclub, featuring local legend Marcus Anthony's intense dance beats, with resident DJs Blackstone and Ruben Mancias. \$10. 9:30pm-2am. 715 Harrison St. Info: www.blackstone-productions.com/faith

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tombach and was kissin

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Drummer 2000 judges named

by Mister Marcus

It's official: Mike Zuhl, the new executive producer of the International Mr. Drummer title, has announced the names of the judges for this year's competition, which will take place at the Suncoast Resort in St. Petersburg, Florida.

I'm happy to say I'll be joining the panel consisting also of outgoing Mr. Drummer Fraser Picard, John Embry, the originator of the now defunct *Drummer Magazine*, the daddy behind innovative Zeus Studios, Mikal Bales, the first ever International Ms. Leather, Judy Tallwing McCarthy, the first elected International Mr. Drummer, Ray Perea, Graylin Thornton, IM Drummer 1993, and American Leather Man Dean Ogren.

Tim Wong of San Francisco and Jim Raymond of Washington, DC will be the tally masters, and Frank Nowicki will be the emcee.

Of course there will be entertainment, headlined by that legendary diva, Martha Wash.

The excitement is mounting, and tickets are going very fast; the host hotel is already sold out, but plenty of very reasonable hotels are available nearby. For any and all information, click on www.drummercontests.com.

Oh Canada!

About ten women will travel to Toronto, Ontario this coming weekend to compete for the coveted title of International Ms. Leather. While there, two of the women will compete for the International Ms. Boot Black 2000 title.

All is in readiness for the event, including the host, Mr. Toronto Leather 1999 eStevan deCastro, who is prepared to trek to that beautiful city to carry out his du-

ties.

Virtually every leather-oriented bar in Toronto will be staging parties for the Int'l. Ms. Leather delegates, so undoubtedly everyone will have a great time.

Speaking of women going to Toronto, last Thursday evening, July 13, a large crowd materialized at Daddy's for the step-down/bonvoyage party staged for our own International Ms. Leather 1999, Pam Meyer, who travels to Toronto to pass the sash.



Bazaar

Inquiring minds are asking why Pam has not been listed as one of the judges, but no explanation has been offered.

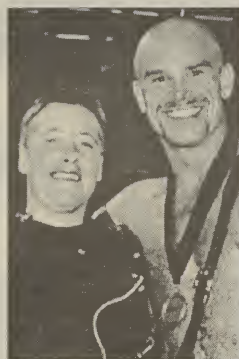
It has been a great year for Pam. Her forays out into the leather world have been fun for her and everyone around her. Her

"naval" marriage to her sash husbands, Int'l. Mr. Leather 99 Bruce Chopnik and Int'l. Mr. Drummer 98 Hervé Bernard, turned into one of the campier events during Leather Pride Week aboard a boat on San Francisco Bay.

(In the case of another sash wedding, Joanne Gaddy of Chicago composed her "divorce" papers from Bruce during the Leather Archives & Museum grand opening in February — because Bruce failed to wear the cigar-band wedding rings that were supposed to be used in the "marriage" ceremony. Who says only drag queens can be campy?)

I was privileged to travel to various venues with Pam during her year, to judge and attend various leather events, contests and festivals. We had a great time with the airline people, especially when, more often than not, they found out who she was — then everything was free for Pam.

Pam's presence helped raise thousands of dollars for charities. Her easygoing, fun attitude endeared her to many men as well as women. It was indeed a rewarding



Int'l. Ms. Leather Pam Meyer travels to Toronto this coming weekend to pass her sash on to the next honoree. She poses here with Mr. SF Leather Lance Gear.

year for Pam, and we are all proud of her. Hurry back from Toronto after you wow them there!

Who wants to be Daddy?

People will be flocking here for the SF Leather Daddy XVIII contest taking place on Friday, July 28 at the Eagle. As of my deadline, it's confirmed that of the three potential candidates I mentioned last week, Keith Truitt has definitely filed for competition. The community wishes all the contestants good luck and much skill — this is one title you do *not* go for without a track record!

Beat the Drummer

Bauke Ylstra and Marty Epstein will pass their sashes to the 2000 Mr. Northern California Drummer and Drummer Boy on Saturday, July 29.

It is disappointing indeed to note that no contestants from either Alameda or Santa Clara counties will be on hand. It's hard to imagine those two Northern California areas not getting involved — not to mention Sacramento or Marin!

Nevertheless, a contest will take place, and the inimitable Int'l. Mr. Leather 98 Tony Mills will again emcee.

Tickets for the advance price of \$20 are available now at Daddy's, or pay \$25 at the door.

The same weekend, another re-

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend, July 21-24

International Ms. Leather 2000 takes place in Toronto, with 10 women vying for the title.

Up at the Russian River, Harry Lit's Lazy Bear Weekend predominates. No contests, no meetings, just be lazy, drink & eat.

In San Diego, it's leather pride weekend (no details at deadline).

In Boston, the Mr. New England Drummer contest occurs, but again, no details.

Friday, July 21

Exiles of SF host their monthly gathering at the Women's Bldg. with the topic, "Novices Rule." Determine your status in the world of SM. \$3 for members, \$5 for guests. Call 835-4739 for details.

Saturday, July 22

Pegasus MOC run to Calistoga, no details at my deadline.

The 15 Association monthly play party at the usual venue. \$10 donation includes all amenities. Guests must accompany you. Call 673-0452 for location and invite.

Golden Gate Guards MC day outing to Santa Cruz Boardwalk, with the Pacific Railway side trip, departing from the Pendulum between 0700 and 0830.

Sunday, July 23

Knights of Malta beer/soda bust at the Eagle, 1500-1800, for \$8 with food, beer, cruising and nonsense as usual.

Wednesday, July 26

Take an overdose of "butch" pills and flee to Leather Buddies at 933 Harrison. Doors open 2100-2300. Strict leather code enforced. No cologne! No under arm deodorant!

The Ring presents a discussion on "underwear — the fetish" at Club Eros, promptly at 1900; be on time, otherwise no entry. Wearing fetish underwear not mandatory, just fun and sexy.

Friday, July 28

The 18th SF Leather Daddy will be chosen at the Eagle, from 2000 to 2300. \$8 beer/soda bust, competition, cruising, and a big thanks to Andre English for a sterling year with the title.

Boots (& bondage) party at a private venue with no time mentioned. For invite and location, call 364-1820 or click on: www.best/~mchester/boot.html for info.

Saturday, July 29

Mr. Northern California Drummer 2000 competition at the Sound Factory. Doors open at 1700. Victory party at Daddy's at 2200. Tix now on sale for \$20, or pay \$25 at the door.

Sunday, July 30

It's the annual Dore Alley Fair (aka Up Your Alley) on Folsom between 9th & 10th and between Folsom and Howard. Big crowd. Hot daddies. Muscles. Pets. Drag. Freaks. Out-of-townners. Canadian Bacon on the hoof (Woof!). Dim Sum and Sushi on the hoof (Yum!). Plus chorizo and other goodies to please your palate. Freak freely and frequently!

PORN

Meat and greet

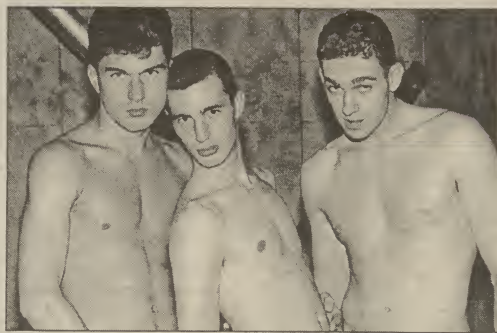
by John F. Karr

Famed French pornographer Jean-Daniel Cadinot's new video, *Street Boyz*, is a successfully horny follow-up to last year's sizzler, *Insatiable*. In the trademark Cadinot fashion, *Street Boyz* whisks a large cast of striking fellows through a number of quickly paced scenes, with just enough plot to provide a reason for the men to meet up. And meat up. These boys aren't the teenage Parisian street urchins the video's title suggests, but a striking assortment of young men on the move. Although they're On the Road, their trip is neither of the Bob Hope or Jack Kerouac variety. What with the constant delay of having sex with everybody they meet, it's a wonder these hitchhikers ever reach their destination at all. But getting there is half the fun, right?

Cadinot's European performers may not be as immediately attractive to our eyes as their American porn star counterparts, so interchangeable in their buff wholesomeness.

But they're infinitely more sexual creatures, with a hunger that's strikingly different from the proficient yet frequently complacent professionalism of many American porn stars. They're only a touch more civilized than the sex-crazed boys of Berlin we've seen in Cazzo Hard imports like *Berlin Techno Sex* and, especially, *Sex for Sale* (whew!), but similar in their stripped-down and frequently shaved look. Most of the boys are so thin that you can count their ribs. But this slowness of body only accentuates the size and swing of their dicks, which bang around as brutally as Quasimodo dangling on the bell rope.

Most particularly, there is



Three of the horny talents in Jean-Daniel Cadinot's *Street Boyz*

Rudolphe Vernier, a handsome little tyke with man-sized meat and lascivious attitude. He counters his Michael J. Fox boyishness, whiskerless face and preppy crewcut with a low-down, demanding sexuality. He's equally sensational as either bottom or top, and loves to show off seductively. When a second hitchhiker asks permission to share

Rudolphe's shelter in an abandoned warehouse, all the answer he needs is the sight of the boy's hard cock poking beneath the hem of his jockey.

Other cast members have brooding Continental handsomeness, the blonde hair and piercing blue eyes of Northern Europeans, or the cheekbones of Eastern Europeans. Cadinot pairs off some suave, slightly older guys with younger sexmates, in scenes where authority must discipline offenders. And when the cops have finished evicting hitchhiking squatters from their temporary shelters, the guys clean up in sexclubs (a steamy bathroom scene that's a miracle of showoff in a cramped

space, as well as a miracle of what can be shoved up a cramped space), or simply make out with each other in public parks — for which they must once again be (sexually) chastised by patrolmen.

Mathias Torello is the shaved and pistoning fucker of the bathroom scene, and I also went gaga in a big way for dark daddy Antoine Mory, lanky badboy Guilhem Thomas, and movie star handsome Youri Sakarime. The video's first hour is its best — although the quickly edited pace is always fast, I never felt shortchanged. Perhaps it is the effectiveness of these first scenes that can't be sustained through the second three-quarters of an hour, but a succession of ten-minute scenes can seem random, as if the editor tired of his efforts. Still, the guys are untiring, and come together in ever-burgeoning groupings — first a threeway, and then a first quartet. But the real treat is the first hour: Youri's angelic face, raven hair and knob-headed cock, Rudolphe's sensational carnality, Mathias' hairless ramrod. *Street Boyz* has been released by Centaur Films, which is Chip Daniels' company. Watch this one, and next time we'll see how it's affected Chip's latest film, *Naval Escort*. Meantime, for more pics it's centaurfilms.com. ▼

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

gional Drummer competition will take place in Boston — the New England Mr. Drummer competition. At my deadline, I was not apprised if the Boston Ramrod would be the venue this year.

The most surprising thing is that this year there will not be a Mr. Southern California Drummer contestant. We're all shaking our heads over that unfortunate development

Out the Dore

The final blast of the month is the Dore Alley Fair, also known as

the Up Your Alley fair. The first year it was held in Ringold Alley by former Int'l. Mr. Leather (1985) Patrick Toner — a dynamic young man who was instrumental in making the I.M.L. title the most honored title in the leather kingdom. People from around the world will be here for our "little hometown party" (only 8,000 people last year) — a prelude to/pre-view of the world's biggest leather celebration, the Folsom Street Fair, on last Sunday in September.

Be assured the eyes of the leather world (and the mainstream, most likely) will again be on San Francisco at the end of this month. Everyone loves what goes on here on the Left Coast. Aren't

you glad you live here?!

Browsing for leather

If you can't wait for contest results, click on www.leatherpage.com, the only website with leather journalists reporting events from near and far. Rumor has it a leather journalist from Dublin, Ireland will soon be added to the roster of writers already gracing those web pages. Blimey!

The Leather Page has links to virtually every known leather/SM club and contest in existence. Joe Gallagher does a great job with the all-free, free-for-all site, and makes a point of letting people know that "nobody's making any money here." ▼

Though Fitz and Isaac separate soon after they deliver the dead soldier's body to his home, it is not long before fate brings them back together. *The Notorious Dr. August* is essentially the story of Fitz's two loves: his love of the "Metaphysicals" who inspire his spirit music, and his love (difficult as it is) for Isaac.

Family affair

Both of Fitz's loves prove problematic. Although he is able to create a name for himself and tour the world as a musical spiritualist, Fitz is never really at peace with his music, and the money that he earns from his craft does not always flow steadily. His love for

Isaac is even more troubling. Though Isaac clearly loves Fitz in the full sense of the word, he is deeply troubled by his attraction to him, and he eventually denies that love, choosing to marry Alice Pangborn, the governess of the wealthy family that Fitz and Isaac also serve. Fitz, Isaac and Alice live together as a kind of family, traveling the world together and collectively raising Isaac and Alice's mixed-race children.

Bram rises to the challenge of writing an historical novel by constructing it as a frame narrative. The tale is dictated by an elderly Augustus to his scribe, Isaac's son Tristan. This technique allows him

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Wed. July 26th **LEATHER BUDDIES**

A passionflower is rediscovered



At the Edge of the Sea [Self-Portrait] (detail), by Romaine Brooks, 1912

by Stephanie von Buchau

Amazons in the Drawing Room: The Art of Romaine Brooks by Whitney Chadwick; Chameleon/University of California Press, paper \$24.95

Of my three collegiate disciplines—Music, English Literature and Art History—I managed to escape with a B.A. in Lit before deconstruction raised its ugly head. The relentless propaganda of serialism—as both the future of music, and as a stick with which to beat other compositional styles—drove me out of my Masters program into criticism. (Somebody had to stick up for Tchaikovsky.)

But in Art History, you were circumscribed by what you could see. San Francisco's museums are no place to get a comprehensive art education, and there were no books on certain artists. When I dared ask about Gustav Klimt in 1960—I'd seen a poor reproduction somewhere—the angry professor informed me that Klimt

was "an interior decorator." If I wanted an Austrian artist, Oscar Kokoschka was my only choice.

I didn't understand why I couldn't look at both. This lengthy preamble is intended as a reminder that fashion, especially when it calls itself truth or taste, dictates even the supposed flow of free information in higher education. Luckily, fashion sometimes rescues art as well. Because of the civil rights movement, a number of gay and lesbian artists have been "rescued" from fashion's cruel dismissal. Those funding gender studies encourage the exhumation of deceased homosexual artists—and even of their work. Some of this art has virtually no lasting power except as a cry of emancipation from oppression.

Yet some of it stands on its own aesthetically, which, in my mind at least, is the only true reason for considering an artist and her work. Such is the art of Romaine Brooks, forgotten not because she was a lesbian and painted strange, emaciated nudes (though undoubtedly resurrected

for that reason), but because she was a figurative artist. The hegemony of abstract expressionism after WWII blinded critics, artists and teachers to the value of painters who dealt with the human figure, unless it was a figure concerned with war or poverty. (The British romantic novelist Ouida used to confound her critics by saying, "I am amazed at the propensity of the British press to find the potato real and the passionflower not.") Sexuality, especially inverted and in a woman, was simply not allowed as alternative subject matter. Thus, Brooks' lengthy neglect.

Pansy division

Beatrice Romaine Goddard was born in Rome in 1874, third child of a prosperous but dysfunctional Philadelphia family. She was educated privately and, in 1902, after the death of her mother left her wealthy and free, became a lady of fashion, with huge pansy eyes and masses of alluring dark hair. She dabbled in art and traveled in exalted *fin de siècle* literary and artistic circles. Among her intimates were Somerset Maugham, Augustus John and Jean Cocteau. Though her true inclination was Sapphic, Brooks briefly married the Englishman John Ellingham Brooks (who was homosexual) and had a long emotional and physical liaison with the Italian symbolist writer, Gabriele D'Annunzio.

Around 1911, when D'Annunzio was writing *The Martyrdom of St. Sebastian* (music by Debussy) for her, the Russian-Jewish actress/dancer Ida Rubenstein met Romaine Brooks. Though Brooks later lived for many years with Natalie Barney, who hosted a famous Parisian salon, Rubenstein appears to have been the erotic ideal of Brooks' imagination. She certainly influenced the young artist's paintings. D'Annunzio also lusted after Rubenstein, but in this case (at least according to Brooks' memoir, *No Pleasant Memories*), she succeeded and the Italian Lothario failed.

Brooks began to paint Rubenstein, sometimes live and sometimes from photos. The results are startling in their frank eroticism, their elevated discourse on androgyny and a lesbian ideal (more on this in a minute), and in Brooks' monochromatic aestheticism, which to my eye is the most arresting thing about her art. As she matured, her palette of gray and black-and-white, with splashes of red, green and blue, gradually lightened and harmonized. She was also an excellent draughtsman.

Her portraits are psychologically powerful because she nails certain physical characteristics with a penetrating yet impartial eye. Her self-portrait on the book's cover is not idealized—she really was that beautiful and saw herself clearly. And there are always the myth-making codes of the portraits such as "Una, Lady Troubridge," Radclyffe Hall's lover, who posed with her dachshunds, wearing men's clothes and a monocle, but also earrings and red lipstick.

If there is a problem with this book, it is in the text, not in the 34 superb color reproductions of Brooks' 40 nudes and portraits. Because it is the catalog for an exhibition that opened in June at the National Museum of Women in DC, and moves to the UC Berkeley Art Museum in October, the

page 47 ►

Gay & Lesbian Night at Great America

Friday, July 28, 2000

Tickets: \$37.50 in advance
\$40.00 at the gate

A portion of proceeds from each ticket benefits the Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center.

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SAFETY INFORMATION:

There have been cases of acid buildup in the blood and enlarged liver, including fatal cases. Fatal and non-fatal pancreatitis has occurred when ZERIT was part of a combination regimen that included didanosine, with or without hydroxyurea.

ZERIT may cause numbness, tingling or pain in the hands or feet (neuropathy). This risk is increased in patients with advanced HIV disease or a history of neuropathy. If this occurs, your doctor may suggest lowering the dose or stopping ZERIT to improve symptoms. Patients treated with ZERIT in combination with other medicines that may cause similar side effects may have a higher chance of developing these side effects. The most frequent side effects are nausea, diarrhea, headache, rash and neuropathy. ZERIT does not cure HIV infection or prevent passing HIV to others. ZERIT, in combination with other antiretroviral agents, is indicated for the treatment of HIV-1 infection.

1) 83% (49/59) and 49% (49/101) of patients taking ZERIT with lamivudine and didanosine had viral load undetectable at 48 weeks in an as-treated and intent-to-treat analysis respectively. (START 1. Data on file, Bristol-Myers Squibb).
2) IMS NPA Prescription Data 4/99 - 4/00.

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Brief Summary of Prescribing Information, 8/99. For complete prescribing information, please consult official package circular.

WARNING

LACTIC ACIDOSIS AND SEVERE HEPATOMEGALY WITH STEATOSIS, INCLUDING FATAL CASES, HAVE BEEN REPORTED WITH THE USE OF NUCLEOSIDE ANALOGUES ALONE OR IN COMBINATION, INCLUDING STAVUDINE AND OTHER ANTIRETROVIRALS (see WARNINGS).

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

ZERIT® (stavudine), in combination with other antiretroviral agents, is indicated for the treatment of HIV-1 infection (see CLINICAL STUDIES).

CLINICAL STUDIES

Combination Therapy: The combination use of ZERIT is based on the results of clinical studies in HIV-infected patients in double- and triple-combination regimens with other antiretroviral agents.

One of these studies (START 1) was a multicenter, randomized, open-label study comparing ZERIT (40 mg BID) plus lamivudine plus didanosine plus lamivudine plus indinavir in 202 treatment-naïve patients. Both regimens resulted in a similar magnitude of inhibition of HIV RNA levels and increases in CD4 cell counts through 48 weeks.

Monotherapy: The efficacy of ZERIT was demonstrated in a randomized, double-blind study (A455-019, conducted 1992-1994) comparing ZERIT with zidovudine in 822 patients with a spectrum of HIV-related symptoms. The outcome in terms of progression of HIV disease and death was similar for both drugs.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

ZERIT is contraindicated in patients with clinically significant hypersensitivity to stavudine or to any of the components contained in the formulation.

WARNINGS

1. Lactic Acidosis/Severe Hepatomegaly with Steatosis: Lactic acidosis and severe hepatomegaly with steatosis, including fatal cases, have been reported with the use of nucleoside analogues alone or in combination, including stavudine and other antiretrovirals. A majority of these cases have been in women. Obesity and prolonged nucleoside exposure may be risk factors. Particular caution should be exercised when administering ZERIT to any patient with known risk factors for liver disease; however, cases have also been reported in patients with no known risk factors. Treatment with ZERIT should be suspended in any patient who develops clinical or laboratory findings suggestive of lactic acidosis or pronounced hepatotoxicity (which may include hepatomegaly and steatosis even in the absence of marked transaminase elevations).

2. Peripheral Neuropathy: Peripheral neuropathy, manifested by numbness, tingling, or pain in the hands or feet, has been reported in patients receiving ZERIT therapy. Peripheral neuropathy has occurred more frequently in patients with advanced HIV disease, a history of neuropathy, or concurrent neurotoxic drug therapy, including didanosine (see ADVERSE REACTIONS).

PRECAUTIONS

Information for Patients: Patients should be informed that an important toxicity of ZERIT is peripheral neuropathy. Patients should be aware that peripheral neuropathy is manifested by numbness, tingling, or pain in hands or feet, and that these symptoms should be reported to their physicians. Patients should be counseled that peripheral neuropathy occurs with greatest frequency in patients who have advanced HIV disease or a history of peripheral neuropathy, and that dose modification and/or discontinuation of ZERIT may be required if toxicity develops.

Caregivers of young children receiving ZERIT therapy should be instructed regarding detection and reporting of peripheral neuropathy.

Patients should be informed that when ZERIT is used in combination with other agents with similar toxicities, the incidence of adverse events may be higher than when ZERIT is used alone. These patients should be followed closely.

Patients should be informed that ZERIT is not a cure for HIV infection, and that they may continue to acquire illnesses associated with HIV infection, including opportunistic infections. Patients should be advised to remain under the care of a physician when using ZERIT. They should be advised that ZERIT therapy has not been shown to reduce the risk of transmission of HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Patients should be informed that the long-term effects of ZERIT are unknown at this time.

Patients should be informed that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend that HIV-infected mothers not nurse newborn infants to reduce the risk of postnatal transmission of HIV infection.

Drug Interactions: Zidovudine may competitively inhibit the intracellular phosphorylation of stavudine. Therefore, use of zidovudine in combination with ZERIT is not recommended. (See CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY.)

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility: In 2-year carcinogenicity studies in mice and rats, stavudine was noncarcinogenic at doses which produced exposures (AUC) 39 and 168 times, respectively, human exposure at the recommended clinical dose. Benign and malignant liver tumors in mice and rats and malignant urinary bladder tumors in male rats occurred at levels of exposure 250 (mice) and 732 (rats) times human exposure at the recommended clinical dose. Stavudine was not mutagenic in the Ames, *E. coli* reverse mutation, or the CHO/HGPRT mammalian cell forward gene mutation assays, with and without metabolic activation. Stavudine produced positive results in the *in vitro* human lymphocyte clastogenesis and mouse fibroblast assays, and in the *in vivo* mouse micronucleus test. In the *in vitro* assays, stavudine elevated the frequency of chromosome aberrations in human lymphocytes (concentrations of 25 to 250 µg/mL, without metabolic activation) and increased the frequency of transformed foci in mouse fibroblast cells (concentrations of 25 to 2500 µg/mL, with and without metabolic activation). In the *in vivo* micronucleus assay, stavudine was clastogenic in bone marrow cells following oral stavudine administration to mice at dosages of 600 to 2000 mg/kg/day for 3 days.

No evidence of impaired fertility was seen in rats with exposures (based on C_{max}) up to 216 times that observed following a clinical dosage of 1 mg/kg/day.

Pregnancy: Pregnancy "Category C." Reproduction studies have been performed in rats and rabbits with exposures (based on C_{max}) up to 399 and 163 times, respectively, of that seen at a clinical dosage of 1 mg/kg/day and have revealed no evidence of teratogenicity. The incidence in fetuses of a common skeletal variation, unossified or incomplete ossification of sternebra, was increased in rats at 399 times human exposure, while no effect was observed at 216 times human exposure. A slight post-implantation loss was noted at 216 times the human exposure with no effect noted at approximately 135 times the human exposure. An increase in early rat neonatal mortality (birth to 4 days of age) occurred at 399 times the human exposure, while survival of neonates was unaffected at approximately 135 times the human exposure. A study in rats showed that stavudine is transferred to the fetus through the placenta. The concentration in fetal tissue was approximately one-half the concentration in maternal plasma. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, stavudine should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry: To monitor maternal-fetal outcomes of pregnant women exposed to stavudine and other antiretroviral agents, an Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry has been established. Physicians are encouraged to register patients by calling (800) 258-4263.

Nursing Mothers: Patients in lactating rats demonstrated that stavudine is excreted in milk. Although it is not known whether stavudine is excreted in human milk, there exists the potential for adverse effects from stavudine in nursing infants. Mothers should be instructed to discontinue nursing if they are receiving stavudine. This instruction is consistent with the Centers for Disease Control recommendation that HIV-infected mothers not breast-feed their infants to avoid risking postnatal transmission of HIV infection.

Pediatric Use: Use of stavudine in pediatric patients is supported by evidence from adequate and well-controlled studies of stavudine in adults with additional pharmacokinetic and safety data in pediatric patients.

Adverse events that were reported to occur in 105 pediatric patients receiving

R ONLY

ZERIT (stavudine) 2 mg/kg/day for a median of 6.4 months in study ACTG 240 were generally similar to those reported in adults.

Stavudine pharmacokinetics have been evaluated in 25 HIV-infected pediatric patients ranging in age from 5 weeks to 15 years and in weight from 2 to 43 kg after I.V. or oral administration of single doses and BID regimens (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Table 1 in full prescribing information).

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Adults: ZERIT therapy has been associated with peripheral neuropathy, which can be severe, is dose related, and occurs more frequently in patients being treated with neurotoxic drug therapy, including didanosine. In patients with advanced HIV infection, or in patients who have previously experienced peripheral neuropathy.

Patients should be monitored for the development of neuropathy, which is usually manifested by numbness, tingling, or pain in the feet or hands. Stavudine-related peripheral neuropathy may resolve if therapy is withdrawn promptly. In some cases, symptoms may worsen temporarily following discontinuation of therapy. If symptoms resolve completely, patients may tolerate resumption of treatment at one-half the dose (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION). If neuropathy recurs after resumption of ZERIT, permanent discontinuation of ZERIT should be considered.

When ZERIT is used in combination with other agents with similar toxicities, the incidence of adverse events may be higher than when ZERIT is used alone. Patients treated with ZERIT in combination with didanosine may be at increased risk for adverse events such as pancreatitis, peripheral neuropathy, and liver function abnormalities. (See WARNINGS and PRECAUTIONS.)

Selected clinical events that occurred in adult patients receiving ZERIT in a controlled monotherapy trial (Study A455-019) are provided in Table 1.

Table 1
Selected Clinical Adverse Events in Study A455-019^a (Monotherapy)

Adverse Events	Percent (%)	
	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=412)	zidovudine (200 mg TID) (n=402)
Headache	54	49
Diarrhea	50	44
Peripheral Neurologic Symptoms/Neuropathy	52	39
Rash	40	35
Nausea and Vomiting	39	44

^a Median duration of stavudine therapy = 79 weeks;

median duration of zidovudine therapy = 53 weeks.

Pancreatitis was observed in three of the 412 adult patients who received ZERIT in a controlled monotherapy study.

Selected clinical adverse events that occurred in antiretroviral naïve adult patients receiving ZERIT from two controlled combination studies are provided in Table 2.

Table 2
Selected Clinical Adverse Events in START 1 and START 2^a Studies (Combination Therapy)

Adverse Events	Percent (%)			
	START 1		START 2	
	ZERIT+ lamivudine+ indinavir (n=100) ^b	zidovudine+ lamivudine+ indinavir (n=102)	ZERIT+ didanosine+ indinavir (n=102) ^b	zidovudine+ lamivudine+ indinavir (n=103)
Nausea	43	63	53	67
Diarrhea	34	16	45	39
Headache	25	26	46	37
Rash	18	13	30	18
Vomiting	18	33	30	35
Peripheral Neurologic Symptoms/Neuropathy	8	7	21	10

^a START 2 compared two triple-combination regimens in 205 treatment-naïve patients. Patients received either ZERIT (40 mg BID) plus didanosine plus indinavir or zidovudine plus lamivudine plus indinavir.

^b Duration of stavudine therapy = 48 weeks.

Pancreatitis resulting in death was observed in one patient who received ZERIT plus didanosine plus indinavir in the START 2 study.

Selected laboratory abnormalities reported in a controlled monotherapy study (Study A455-019) are provided in Table 3.

Table 3
Selected Adult Laboratory Abnormalities in Study A455-019^{a,b}

Parameter	Percent (%)	
	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=412)	zidovudine (200 mg TID) (n=402)
AST (SGOT) ($>5.0 \times$ ULN)	11	10
ALT (SGPT) ($>5.0 \times$ ULN)	13	11
Amylase ($\geq 1.4 \times$ ULN)	14	13

^a Data presented for patients for whom laboratory evaluations were performed.

^b Median duration of stavudine therapy = 79 weeks; median duration of zidovudine therapy = 53 weeks.

ULN = upper limit of normal.

Selected laboratory abnormalities reported in two controlled combination studies are provided in Tables 4 and 5.

Table 4
Selected Laboratory Abnormalities in START 1 and START 2 Studies (Grades 3-4)

Parameter	Percent of Patients			
	START 1		START 2	
	ZERIT+ lamivudine+ indinavir (n=100)	zidovudine+ lamivudine+ indinavir (n=102)	ZERIT+ didanosine+ indinavir (n=102)	zidovudine+ lamivudine+ indinavir (n=103)
Bilirubin ($>2.6 \times$ ULN)	7	6	16	8
SGOT (AST) ($>5 \times$ ULN)	5	2	7	7
SGPT (ALT) ($>5 \times$ ULN)	6	2	8	5
GGT ($>5 \times$ ULN)	2	2	5	2
Lipase ($>2 \times$ ULN)	6	3	5	5
Amylase ($>2 \times$ ULN)	4	<1	8	2

ULN = upper limit of normal.

Table 5
Selected Laboratory Abnormalities in START 1 and START 2 Studies (All Grades)

Parameter	Percent (%)			
	START 1		START 2	
	ZERIT+ lamivudine+ indinavir (n=100)	zidovudine+ lamivudine+ indinavir (n=102)	ZERIT+ didanosine+ indinavir (n=102)	zidovudine+ lamivudine+ indinavir (n=103)
Total Bilirubin	65	60	68	55
SGOT (AST)	42	20	53	20
SGPT (ALT)	40	20	50	18
GGT	15	8	28	12
Lipase	27	12	26	19
Amylase	21	19	31	17

Observed During Clinical Practice: The following events have been identified during post-approval use of ZERIT (stavudine). Because they are reported voluntarily from a population of unknown size, estimates of frequency cannot be made. These events have been chosen for inclusion due to their seriousness, frequency of reporting, causal connection to ZERIT, or a combination of these factors.

Body as a Whole: abdominal pain, allergic reaction, and chills/fever.

Digestive Disorders: anorexia.

Hematologic Disorders: anemia, leukopenia, and thrombocytopenia.

Liver: lactic acidosis and hepatic steatosis (see WARNINGS), hepatitis and liver failure.

Musculoskeletal: myalgia.

Nervous: insomnia.

Pediatric Patients: Adverse reactions and serious laboratory abnormalities in pediatric patients were similar in type and frequency to those seen in adult patients.

OVERDOSAGE

Experience with adults treated with 12 to 24 times the recommended daily dosage revealed no acute toxicity. Complications of chronic overdosage include peripheral neuropathy and hepatic toxicity. Stavudine can be removed by hemodialysis; the mean \pm SD hemodialysis clearance of stavudine is 120 ± 18 mL/min. Whether stavudine is eliminated by peritoneal dialysis has not been studied.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

The interval between doses of ZERIT should be 12 hours. ZERIT may be taken without regard to meals.

Adults: The recommended dose based on body weight is as follows:

40 mg twice daily for patients ≥ 60 kg.

30 mg twice daily for patients <60 kg.

Pediatrics: The recommended dose for pediatric patients weighing less than 30 kg is 1 mg/kg/day, given every 12 hours. Pediatric patients weighing 30 kg or greater should receive the recommended adult dosage.

Dosage Adjustment: Patients should be monitored for the development of peripheral neuropathy, which is usually manifested by numbness, tingling, or pain in the feet or hands. These symptoms may be difficult to detect in young children (see WARNINGS). If these symptoms develop during treatment, stavudine therapy should be interrupted. Symptoms may resolve if therapy is withdrawn promptly. In some cases, symptoms may worsen temporarily following discontinuation of therapy. If symptoms resolve completely, patients may tolerate resumption of treatment at one-half the recommended dose.

20 mg twice daily for patients ≥ 60 kg.

15 mg twice daily for patients <60 kg.

If neuropathy recurs after resumption of ZERIT, permanent discontinuation of ZERIT should be considered.

Renal Impairment: ZERIT may be administered to adult patients with impaired renal function with adjustment in dose as shown in Table 6.

Table 6
Recommended Dosage Adjustment for Renal Impairment

Creatinine Clearance (mL/min)	Recommended ZERIT Dose by Patient Weight	
	≥ 60 kg	<60 kg
>50	40 mg every 12 hours	30 mg every 12 hours
26-50	20 mg every 12 hours	15 mg every 12 hours
10-25	20 mg every 24 hours	15 mg every 24 hours

Since urinary excretion is also a major route of elimination of stavudine in pediatric patients, the clearance of stavudine may be altered in children with renal impairment. Although there are insufficient data to recommend a specific dose adjustment of ZERIT in this patient population, a reduction in the dose and/or an increase in the interval between doses should be considered.

Hemodialysis Patients: The recommended dose is 20 mg every 24 hours (≥ 60 kg) or 15 mg every 24 hours (<60 kg), administered after the completion of hemodialysis and at the same time of day on non-dialysis days.

Method of Preparation:

ZERIT (stavudine) for Oral Solution

Prior to dispensing, the pharmacist must constitute the dry powder with purified water to a concentration of 1 mg stavudine per mL of solution, as follows:

1. Add 202 mL of purified water to the container.

2. Shake container vigorously until the powder dissolves completely. Constitution in this way produces 200 mL (deliverable volume) of 1 mg/mL stavudine solution. The solution may appear slightly hazy.

3. Dispense solution in original container with measuring cup provided. Instruct patient to shake the container vigorously prior to measuring each dose and to store the tightly closed container in a refrigerator, 36° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). Discard any unused portion after 30 days.

HOW SUPPLIED

ZERIT® (stavudine) Capsules are available in the following strengths and configurations of plastic bottles with child-resistant closures:

Product Strength	Capsule Shell Color	Markings on Capsule (in Black Ink)	Capsules per Bottle	NDC No.
15 mg	Light yellow & dark red	BMS 1964 15	60	0003-1964-01
20 mg	Light brown	BMS 1965 20	60	0003-1965-01
30 mg	Light orange & dark orange	BMS 1966 30	60	0003-1966-01
40 mg	Dark orange	BMS 1967 40	60	0003-1967-01

ZERIT® (stavudine) for Oral Solution is a dye-free, fruit-flavored powder that provides 1 mg of stavudine per mL of solution upon constitution with water. Directions for solution preparation are included on the product label and in the DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION section of this insert. ZERIT for Oral Solution (NDC No. 0003-1968-01) is available in child-resistant containers that provide 200 mL of solution after constitution with water.

US Patent No.: 4,978,655

Storage: ZERIT Capsules should be stored in tightly closed containers at controlled room temperature, 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C).

ZERIT for Oral Solution should be protected from excessive moisture and stored in tightly closed containers at controlled room temperature, 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C). After constitution, store tightly closed containers of ZERIT for Oral Solution in a refrigerator, 36° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). Discard any unused portion after 30 days.

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ARTS

Indigo Girls

◀ page 31

into a fund and then different Indian communities apply for grants. They may be doing things like fighting multinational corporations who want to strip their land, or there is the threat of toxic waste dumping on their lands. Or they have cultural sustainability

Romaine Brooks

◀ page 44

essays by Chadwick on Brooks' life and by Joe Lucchesi on the Rubenstein paintings and photograph series are necessarily skimpy. Both authors, while pushing the notion that Brooks was seeking to portray a "lesbian ideal," ignore the fact that the breastless, anorexic Rubenstein (seen nude in "The Weeping Venus," "The Crossing" and "The Masked Archer") is as scary as she is sexy.



Una, Lady Troubridge (detail), by Romaine Brooks, 1924

Whatever erotic ideals or demons Brooks was trying to promote or to subdue, they are not every lesbian's ideals or demons. In special pleading for Brooks, probably because her art has been virtually ignored in the last half-century, the authors blatantly ignore what cannot help but appear pathological. (The drawings in this catalog suggest warped mental processes even more than the paintings do.) Brooks may have been attempting, in her art, to escape the male tyranny of the voluptuous, yielding artist's model. Still, it's bad enough when men today demand that women be extremely thin; when a woman concurs, it makes you reach for the Dove Bars.

A deeper, wider discussion of this seriously neglected American artist is not quite provided by this catalog (though the in-depth bibliography may help make up for lapses). Still, as pure paint-to-canvas, Romaine Brooks' work is amazingly strong and single-minded. I can hardly wait to see the show in Berkeley. ▼

programs, keeping the languages and their histories alive. It's a way to support environmental efforts on behalf of native communities.

You're still touring in support of *Come On Now Social*, which came out last year.

We usually tour about a year and a half after a record comes out. It's sort of split up. Summer-time is the time for the shed tour, and that's what we're doing now, with a band. And then every touring season we do our Honor The Earth tour for about a month. Sometimes we go over to Australia or the UK. It keeps us pretty busy.

Are you playing any new songs on this tour?

Yeah, usually about eight to 10 new songs from the record, and then sometimes Amy sings a new song that she's working on that hasn't been recorded yet. The other part of the set is a mix of old songs, some acoustic, some electric, some Amy's, some mine.

Have you had a chance to go into the studio to begin working on the next Indigo Girls album?

No, but we're going to release a retrospective this fall, and we're going to include two new songs on that record. We're in the process of

deciding which new songs we're going to pick.

That's something to look forward to. You and Amy are best known as a duo, but you have also done work separately. Will there come a time when we'll be seeing solo records from you and Amy?

Yes, Amy's already working on a solo record. She's got a bunch of songs, and she's done some recording with the Butchies, who are an awesome band. It's just a matter of her finding the time to get it done. I'd like to make a solo record, but I'm not exactly sure when. We feel like whatever we do individually is only that much better for the Indigo Girls. Everything is moving ahead full-steam.

There is a lot of buzz about the fact that Sinead O'Connor has come out as a lesbian. Would you care to comment?

I can't believe it! Sinead O'Connor is a beautiful spirit made of many things. If this is part of her incarnation, then I'm all for it. ▼

The Indigo Girls play the Greek Theater in Berkeley Sat., July 22. Spearhead and Mrs. Fun open.

Little Richard

◀ Arts cover

spised.

He started wearing makeup to his early musical gigs, which served a dual purpose. "I had a little birthmark on one side of my face," he said on the phone, "and the powder would cover it up and make me feel better about myself. And the makeup would help me get into places that were real racist. They didn't want black guys, and by me looking smooth they didn't mind me coming in because they felt I wouldn't bother the women. They thought I was a sissy, but that's not what it was."

Despite the fact that it was published during one of his religious reformations, the biography has him describing his polysexual exploits in giddy graphic terms, from a *menage à trois* with Buddy Holly and an exotic dancer with a 50-inch chest to his predilection to having his nipples nibbled on.

"That book said what was what," Little Richard said. "I never denied that."

He does deny that he authorized, participated in, or approved of the TV movie about his life that aired earlier this year — even though he was credited as execu-

tive producer and gave numerous interviews to help promote it.

"They put me as executive producer so if anybody came up with lawsuits, they'd come after me," he said. "If I was executive producer, I never would have put my mother in no one-room house. My mama's my heart. I never would have done that to my mother."

When he was done watching [the single-named] Leon play him in *Little Richard* on NBC, he wanted "to tear the television up. I thought it was the worst thing ever been seen. They didn't show nothing about music, about me and the Beatles and Jimi Hendrix. The only thing they had there was about Pat Boone, and we could have done without that."

"And the boy they had playing me didn't look like me. He's got two lips like biscuits. I love biscuits, but my lips ain't quite biscuits yet."

Maybe so, but after all these years, Little Richard's still got quite a mouth on him. ▼

Little Richard and his band will perform July 23 at Davies Hall as part of the San Francisco Symphony's Summer in the City series. Tickets are \$15-\$65. Call 864-6000.

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9pm-2am

KILLING ME SOFTLY
1pm, 6pm
ASIAN ORGY
9:30pm

TOUGH GUYS
1pm, 6pm
NEW MEAT 19
9:30pm

Scorpio in
ALL TIED UP
1pm, 6pm
GRAPHIC ART
BONDAGE
9:30pm

AMATEUR STRIP
CONTEST
9:30pm

A NEW MOVIE
EVERYDAY!

SURF NAKED
@ THE DOT CUM LOUNGE

www.newmeatcampus.com
11am-12am Sun-Thurs
11am-2am Fri-Sat

Making the most
of your Millenium.

HOT LAVA

DJ Logos is on, hand spinning naked downbeats for your hot stroking pleasure. Every Saturday from 8pm-2am.

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There's no ignoring
the power of porn!

Internet Sex @ Dot-Cum Lounge. Free use of high speed workstations complete with color web-cams, DVD players, speakers, microphones, printer, scanner and CD burner hooked to DSL. The New Meat Campus is the first location in the world to offer clothing optional web surfing and we want you. Open seven days a week starting at 11am.

AMATEUR STRIP CONTEST

Every Wednesday at 9pm is the Amateur Strip Contest at the New Meat Campus. All contestants receive a free video for their show of skin. The winner gets a \$100 prize and a chance to appear as a New Meat dancer.

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CAMPUS
THEATER** 220 JONES ST

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12-14 SHOWS
EVERYDAY

BAR TALK



photo by Steven Underhill

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PARTING GLANCES

Fri- 6/2/00 Thiaistick Restaurant
I was with 2 friends and you were with a friend. You said "How embarrassing" when your friend dropped his fork. We kept looking at each other. Please call me. ☎ 72013

May 3 In PM, U On All 4's,
Me: just gettin in. Stunned I was, and still am. Hope this rating that has started keeps on flowing. Signed KLC. ☎ 72014

Vince, Met You Este Noche 5/28
I was the other Vince. Call, I would like to meet you. ☎ 72015

Dan, It's Dave From Portland
Memorial Day Weekend, Saturday night, Blow Buddies. We hung out all night. Lost your card & number. Would love to stay in touch. ☎ 72016

Japantown Parking Garage
You were paying at register (Memorial Day, Sunday). Me at end of long line. Our eyes locked. We laughed. You with parents. Please call. ☎ 72017

"Caught Off Guard!"
Sun, 5/21, Potrero Safeway. You: Purple cap and glasses. Me: blue shirt and ratty gray sweater. I'm kidding myself for not introducing myself. Can we have another go? ☎ 72018

Hey Billy Budd
Cafe Flore, 7/9. Do you believe life has a happier ending than in books? Dinner? Movie? ☎ 72130

Golden Gate Bridge South 6/18
Sunday 7pm- You, a passenger in a blue Mustang convertible. Me, in a black Ford Ranger - I turned @ Webster-we waved-let's have dinner? ☎ 72074

Perrin, You Still Live In Me
Your best friend is James. Matt in Oak. ☎ 72075

Guardian Angel
5-26-00 Mkt. St. Accident. You assisted with Police & Davies Medical Center. Would like to say "Thank you" in person. ☎ 72071

6/14 Filipino Guy In Scrubs
You: cute Flip or Latino guy, boarding #33 at 18th & Castro 3pm. We kept checking each other out. Me: cute White boy, 24. Coffee or more? ☎ 72072

Lawrence Of Scarsdale
Enjoyed your trip? How about lunch-dinner-theatre? All the above? Dimk-Rye-Trilogy, pls call. ☎ 72019

Market Street Safeway Sun 6/11
Approx. 1:45pm... You: blond GWM leaving. Me: GAM coming in. Us: both good-looking and looking at each other in parking lot. ☎ 72077

United Wash Dulles Flight Sat.
Cute boy in khakis- we should have talked. Call me. The attraction was mutual. ☎ 72131

Prince Albert On Baker Beach
Wednesday 6/14- You: short blond hair, gold sunglasses, Prince Albert, very sexy, white/black plaid bucket. Me: with child. We smiled, you waved bye. Call! ☎ 72073

Yellow Dandelion @ VW Bug 6/3
We stopped @ stop light Market & Eureka. You said, "I like your dandelion", over the window. You: red BMW, baseball cap. Me: VW Asian, baseball cap. Can we? ☎ 72020

Justin- Powerhouse Sunday 6/18
I really enjoyed the time we spent together. You're a great kisser. Wish I had pen/paper in the car to get your number. I want to get to know you more. Eric. ☎ 72076

Christopher From Wash. DC
Midnight Sun. I was mean and am deeply sorry you didn't deserve that. May I take you to dinner? Second chance? Sincerely Tom. ☎ 72105

Pride SF 2000 Rt. Broken Arm John
Sexy! We had a very nice hello! I want to sign your cast!!! Let's continue where we left off! Wanna dance? Troy. ☎ 72106

L- Taraval 11:30pm Sat. 6/24
U NYPD T. on W Portal off 15th Ave, stood mid door smiling at me. Regret not getting off with you! Me SF leather cap, green vest. Was it fate? Pls. call. ☎ 72107

Rake's Progress & Parsifal
#24/ Divisadero, Fri. 6/16, we talked about those operas. Now I've seen both. Would love to talk with you more. Opera chat is my primary goal. Steve. ☎ 72109

Embarcadero Bart Wed 6/21 Aft.
Also on wknd, all star & 42 line. You-sexy BM, s/p beard. Loved checking out you hot, smooth chest- Show me more! Let's play! Me-tall, dk hr & goatee. ☎ 72110

Bernal Heights 6/19 At Night
We met in Bernal Heights, talked... is there any chance we can talk more? Please call. ☎ 72111

Wow! Dark Beard On Sanchez St.
June 28 Wednesday, around 8:30pm I was walking my dog, I have short hair and mustache. You dark beard walking into building @ Sanchez & Market. ☎ 72132

Gay Cherokee Indian Wants Love
5'8", 145lbs. long dark hair, love Charles Ely, Michael Lucas, & Mike Crews. Want to rub my deal against yours. Send phone & email. Want to make love to all. ☎ 72134

RRR Pool 7/8-7/9
You: dark, blue/orange suit. Me: shorter, ragged blue shorts, red cap. We waved as I left, kicking myself for not managing more. Hoping for another chance. Please call. ☎ 72149

Mark, We Shared Vege Table In
Chinatown. I enjoyed the conversation. Let's eat in DC. ☎ 72152

Eros, Sat July 8
You: not blond stud. Me: tall dark handsome. We played then met in locker room. Talked briefly, but too shy to say for number. "Let's look up again!" ☎ 72153

Metreon Fri 6/30 Firewood Cafe
Phil, I showed you where the car was parked after we introduced ourselves. Thanks for picking me out of the crowd. It would be a dream come true to meet you for lunch again. -Kent ☎ 72154

Sniff PLT, Etc.
Who made those great stencils? I'd like to talk to you. ☎ 72155

Union City Bart-Gay Pride Sun.
Around 11:40am. We noticed each other near the ticket machines. You're Caucasian, 20's, dark hair and eyes, with some friends. I was in shorts and t-shirt. Your train to SF left before I reached the platform. You're very handsome. Please call. ☎ 72108

Blond Larry At Twin Peaks
Via Chicago/LA/ Guerneville. I think you're pretty swell. Like to get to know you. ☎ 72112

P.J. Lumbert Konichiwa?
I hope to meet you again someday, Amen. ☎ 72151

Davies Radiology, Late April
Chatted w/you while partner was getting x-rayed. Had good conversation about treatment. Partner now deceased, would like to reconnect with you. ☎ 72133

Rick-Solstice Party 6/16
We met under full moon at house on 14th St. Me: Rob from Ukiah. You left to find your partner Doug(?) before exchanging phone nos. Would love to reconnect. ☎ 72156

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Good Looking Straight Type
Genuine, fun loving, non-scene GWM 42, 6'1", 195lbs. not into gay life. Seeks romance and love with similar good looking, masculine, relationship-oriented, non-scene nice guy with personality. \$ 72012

GWM, 46, 6'1", 160# Shaved Head
Br eyes Mustache Goatee Passionate Romantic Seeking Short Young vers bottom Latin Lover. ☎ 72021

Balding S&P Shy Versatile Guy
GWM, 48, 190lbs, hairy, uncut, clean and sober, sincere, honest. Very versatile. S&g other versatile GM, no smokers for dating, regular sex, and companionship. ☎ 72022

Seeking Bareback Bottom
HIV-negative East bay GWM, 6'1", 165#, 62, affectionate gentle bareback top seeks bareback bottom lover/companion/ friend for caring sex and other shared interests. No smoking/drugs. HIV negative only. ☎ 72023

Affectionate And Sincere
Looking for an honest, affectionate, fun-loving bottom, mid 50's, masculine and fit. I know how to cuddle and kiss and a few other things. ☎ 72024

Do You Like Alternative Music,
Tokin Mota, bikin 2 Baker Beach, bailing buck naked? I'm 42- 5'8"- 150 lb/bi bottom healthy inhapse HIV+. Like you 21-45, dark complexion, big ears, long hair, uncut top r A+&s. ☎ 72025

Man Is Great In His Transition
Are you ready? 170lb, 5'9", goodlooking GLM 40's seeks for someone with brains, heart, courage & body. HIV a plus, working out is a must. ☎ 72026

Wanted: Occasionally A
Handsome, mature, wealthy, unattached man, who will escort this very hot ex-kept BM man.Dining, theatre, travel. HIV-. ☎ 72027

Looking Old Fashioned LTR
Tall stocky GWM professional, 50's HIV-, spiritual, smoker HIV-, well grounded, cut, hard, looking for average professional, financially independent, educated, good-hearted, cut, orally inclined, likes mother. HIV+ okay. ☎ 72028

Life Can Be Sunny-Wanna Share?
ISO best friend-lover 4 LTR. Me- GWM 56, 5'11", 150lbs. Smoker, non-drinker, quiet, secure, nice guy, HIV-. You- HIV-, mature (50's), caring GM (White, Asian, Latin). ☎ 72029

Oral Specialist For Select Few
Divorced, professional, WM, seeks select married, young, athletic, males for oral satisfaction. No reciprocation is needed. ☎ 72030

Gruff Goofy Bear
6'4", 240lbs moderately hairy versatile/ top 8x6 believes trust and respect are earned not bestowed likes quiet things in life. Occasional partying, humor & cuddling. Daddy types big & kinky ok! ☎ 72031

Asian ISO White Male
Asian male, 36, 145lbs, 5'7", attractive, built, smooth, clean shaven. In search of White male in their 30's. Smooth, in great shape for friends, date and more. ☎ 72032

Attractive New To Area
Healthy HIV+ WM in San Rafael is seeking a loving LTR with Middle Eastern, Mediterranean or Latino men 40 to 50 years old n/s, n/d. ☎ 72033

Nice Guy!
GWM, 42yo., 6'2", 200lbs, HIV-seeks prof. 35 to 45yo. top. Interest include music, movies, travel & spending quality times together! HIV- only pls. ☎ 72034

The Man In Those Great Dreams
I'm Craig, HIV+, healthy, WM, 5'9", 145#, s, raised in H.M.B. 40yo/ decent-looking, blue-colored and intelligent. Seeking even keeled very sexy W guy for laying pipe, partying fun & productive living. ☎ 72035

Athletic Poz Top
Young 40, GWM, br, ha, clean cut, sensual poz top, 5'10", 172, seeks a man to enjoy outdoors, sweaty workouts in & out of gym & more. ☎ 72036

club4cub
Goodlooking Asian cub 26, 5'9", 185 ISO GWM or GHM for dating & LTR. Great sense of humor a plus. ☎ 72037

Life Is Very Short-Goodlooking
Japanese 40 for LTR possible monogamous, me healthy, sum/athletic seeks GWM 60+ professional, positive thinker. Interest in show, music, travel, clothes, movie, sports. ☎ 72038

Seeking Relationship
GWM, 54, 5'8", 185, brn/blue, beard, HIV neg, seeks on-going relationship with warm and loving GM who practices safe sex and enjoys being jacked off by his partner. ☎ 72039

Attractive Latino
Goodlooking Latino 34yo/ brown eyes, dark hair goatee professional, looking for GWM between 26-40yo/ for friendship or more. Like: biking, hiking, going out to dinner, traveling etc. Just call ☎ 72040

Handsome Italian
40, 6'2", 185lbs, into fitness, travel, romance and quiet times, seeks another HIV negative well hung man who is honest and sincere for monogamous relationship. ☎ 72041

Attractive Chinese Seeks GWM
55 or over for LTR. I am 50, 5'8", 155#, sincere and caring. I prefer non-smoker & clean shaven. ☎ 72042

Passionate Top LM
Seeks fun, friendly, and playful guys for friendship and more. I'm 35/150/5'5", romantic, educated, well traveled, and intense. Take a chance, I know you're out there. ☎ 72078

GAM Seeks GWM
Are you beefy and brawny? Are you hairy and horny? GAM, 57, 5'8", 135, brn/bl, HIV neg, seeks such a man for the pleasures of body rubbing and frigate. ☎ 72079

Your Royal Hairiness
Versatile GWM hairy bear, 60's, HIV-, thick cut big head, muscular hairy thighs, seeks hairy top any age. My throat & hole crave your stiff scepter. Eat me. ☎ 72080

"Black Man Wanted!"
Masculine, muscular (46" chest, 32" waist, 19" bi-ceps) WM, mid 30's wants masculine BM (preferably tall) for LTR. Age unimportant, but no effeminate men, please. ☎ 72081

-Ready To Date-
GWM, healthy, poz, 5'8", 165lbs, drk hr, fit, 41, sane, wants heart/physical connection. You: top, balanced, humorous, taller A+&s. ☎ 72082

Handsome Positive Hunk For You
Stable sincere goodlooking GWM, 5'10", 190lbs, 46" chest, 32", 18" arms, looking for friendship/ dating, possibly more, with other HIV+ man who has a brain as well as a good body. ☎ 72083

If UR Slim Smooth GWM
HIV+ guy affectionate romantic masculine into more going out. Under 40yo's old. Young look. I'm Latin gym toned. 36yr, old, body, dark featured, versatile. H: 5'07, w-157. Live in SF-yc. Call if you want to chat over coffee? ☎ 72084

Beauty Inside And Out
Professional GWM, youthful 40, 5'10", 160#, 40" ch, 31" w, Mediterranean, good looks, big heart. Seeks GWM/GHM 35-45, confident, well-travelled, honest, for romance (uncut A+, not essential). ☎ 72085

Cute Asian Seeking LTR
GAM, 35, 5'8", 155, workout regularly, smooth, toned body. ISO muscular, 42yo, sincere, seeks between ages of 33-43yrs. Must be honest and sincere. You won't be disappointed. ☎ 72086

Young Handsome Russian
Looking for other intelligent Russians or Europeans under 40yo., to give my body and soul. ☎ 72087

Texas Boy Seeks Buckaroo
34yr old smooth, athletic regular guy seeks slim ethnic urbane (26-32) for hangin out friendship, whatever. Integrity & adventurous a plus. ☎ 72088

"Get Your Stuff" Victoria 6/17
You: Asian guy in rush to party. Me: White guy in next seat who guarded your coat. We talked but didn't offer telephone numbers. Want to do another movie? ☎ 72089

Are You Ready For Fun?
GWM 31, 5'8", ISO guy a looking in-shape dark hair & eyes, tattooed looking to meet other fun young guy guys for friendship or more. ☎ 72113

Two Guys Looking For 3rd
Would like to meet versatile top (35-50) with hankering for fir as a threesome. Dad-5'10, 150#, lightly muscled, 51. Boy- 6-1, 160#, trim, 38. Both HIV+. ☎ 72114

Poz Brains And Brains
Handsome prof, Italian GWM, shaved, goatee, 5'10", 46ch 32w, 174, HIV+, macho hunky, not into jumping; bed hopping; seeking to meet other good looking down to earth guys for friendship and possible more. Let's talk and see what happens. ☎ 72115

BAR TALK

PERSONALS ARE FREE!

CATEGORY

- ☐ Parting Glances
☐ Seeking Relationship
☐ Seeking Adventure
☐ Lesbian
☐ Fetishes
☐ Couples
☐ Others

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR TALK, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY at 5 PM**, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. One ad per customer per week.

Name _____ Daytime Telephone _____
Address _____ Evening Telephone _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

First Time Cock Sucker
Masculine WM 57 French passive experience only. Seeking senior 70-75 to practice cocksucking on if you're cut still hard. Possible weekly visits if we're compatible. **72116**

GWM Sks Black Male 45+ Older
I'm seeking to meet black men for dating. Me: GWM, 44, 5'11", 175#, br/br, slender, prof. European. Like to meet, prof., easy going, attr. man for good times. Call me. **72117**

Love Is In The Air
My heart is open, 36 HIV+ attractive healthy. Positive attitude, spiritual. Looking for HIV+ male, any race, 25 to 37yr old masculine, athletic, attractive top. Emotionally available, affectionate, loving for friendship/ ltr. **72137**

"Seeking Matured Man"
I like matured men late 50's to 60's, weight proportioned to height who would enjoy being serviced periodically. No reciprocation necessary. Must have your own place. Let's get together. **72138**

Asian ISO White Male
Asian male, 36, 145lbs, 5'7", attractive, built, smooth, professional looking for GWM 27-40yo for friendship or more. Like: dining out, biking, hiking, travel and more. **72157**

GWM New To Union City Seeks GWM
Sex is important, but so is kissing, cuddling, sense of humor, and spontaneity. Me 55, 5'11", 175, UB 30-45, sincere, honest, open to possibilities. I'm ready. **72158**

Attractive Latino
Good looking Latino 35yo dark hair, brown eyes, goatee, professional looking for GWM 27-40yo for friendship or more. Like: dining out, biking, hiking, travel and more. **72160**

"Blond, Beefy Oh Beau!"
Beefy Cal Ripken type, hairy top, fortysomething, 6'2", 190, blond professional wanting by attractive, masculine, Afro-American, caramel brown, goatee, Vietnamese, 40, 5'11", 170, writer into jazz, romance, fidelity and cuddling. **72161**

R U Ready?
To meet a great guy? 42yo GWM, 6'3", 200lbs professional seeks 35 to 45yo top. Interests include music, dining out & enjoying the good life. HIV- only please. Lv. msg. **72162**

Handsome/Creative/Professional
Sex intense, passionate, worldly, hungriest top 5'10", 170, br, gr, 37 HIV neg. seeks masculine, focused, hung or very hot ass'd men for secure, loving and fun ltr. **72163**

Life Is Very Short Lets Discover
Each other. Attractive Japanese artist seeks GWM 55+ (over) for ltr, possible monogamous. I am 40, 5'8", 135# slim/athletic, HIV- seeks honest sincere romantic, sense of humor, grey hair/little chubby A+. **72164**

GWM 36, 5'10" 175lbs, Healthy
Humorous seeks down to earth GWM in his 30's for ltr. Clean shaven, clean cut, in-shape guys only. **72136**

Bright Eyes, Easy Smile
Handsome GWM (Italian) 54, 5'10", 195 w/br, stable, honest, affectionate ISO monogamous life partner (friends first, safe sex later), who is happy, enthusiastic, energetic, HIV-, n/s. Walnut Creek area. **72165**

"GWM Professional, Moving To S.F."
In near future. Seeks friends for fun and dating. I have a fetish for nylon tights/pantyhose. Not into cross-dressing. Very sensual. Love outdoors, bicycling, walks, and am a movie geor. Have two man cats. **72135**

Heart & Soul Hung. Amen!
Friendly, unpretentious, quick-witted, young-looking 41, 6'1", 175#, br/br, clean-shaven, Dutch background, HIV-, publishing entrepreneur, cook, own flat, hike, swim, sunset cocktails, nude massage. Artistic sensibility. Well-endowed in more ways than one. **72166**

GAM ISO Friend
Mature GAM seeks friendship and more. I'm 40/140/5'8", educated, professional. No overweights please. **72118**

Asian
Young, goodlooking, GAM, 52yo, slim, 5'7", is looking for an older GWM for possible relationship. Like: quiet times, cooking, traveling. No smoking. **72159**

The Pisces Looking For A Scorpio
WGM 48yo, 6' uncult bottom bald virgin 175lb, looking for WGM top scorprio only for friendship and more 30-50yo. I'll do all for you, scorprio just fuck me! **72167**

Looking For A Man To Love
I am 5'11", 180, 57, good shape, handsome, 56yo hairy, hazel eyes, mustache, HIV-, looking for a serious man 40-55, interested in a relationship. Serious only. **72168**

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Got Quads?
Powerful, muscular legs turn me on. If you got 'em and know how to use 'em, give me a call. Me: BM, mid 40's, young, athletic, sensual. **72045**

You Will Not Regret This Call
WM 30's tall, good looking, in-shape, great personality, many interests. Seeks same in Asian or Latin masculine men. **72044**

Hot White Or Latino Bottoms
Are wanted by 56yr old White man 6'0", 160lbs, drk brn hair glasses. Big 9" cut tool want to fuck your hot butt be under 45. **72045**

South Bay
GWM, early 50's, sensual, sexy, safely, uninhibited likes to be photographed, in-door/outdoor, let's have fun. **72046**

Dad Needs Good Boy
Me: oral, topman GWM, 50, 6'5", 350, brown hair/mustache, hairy chest/stomach. You: attractive, GM (White, Asian, Latin), slim, smooth/moderate bodyhair, nice buns. Spanking, assplay, roleplay. **72047**

East Bay Single GWM Top Seeks
Versatile bottom for marathon sex fantasies. You GWM or HCM, under 45 years, trim and fit, masculine and clean cut, smooth, muscular a plus, no scat, HIV, or heavy sm. **72048**

Professional ISO Safe Clean Fun
Me: 37, 5'10", Asian, clean cut, slender built, not into scene. Enjoy long fore play, kissing, oral, jo, massage, showers, lots of body contact. Sit free and healthy living important. **72049**

Hot Ass Here For Ride Week?
Middleage, but hung and horny total (a local legend) will poke you deeply in your hotel. Must leave your full name. Hotels only. Husky a plus. **72050**

Asian, Filipino, Latin Bottoms
Hot GWM wants to tongue & cock fuck your ass. VGL, fit body Italian 38, 165#, 5'8", HIV-, 7.5 cut cock. Let's meet & play. **72051**

E. Bay Bottom Seek Active Top
Healthy handsome A/M, 50+; you a clean top, no drug/disease, any race/age/size, willing and able to fuck me after lots of touches/kisses/cuddling; West/South Bay location also ok. **72052**

GWM Seeking Hot Encounters
GWM, 42, 5'7", ISO trim 30-50 years old Asian, Latin or Black for hot on-going morning or daytime passionate fun. Do you like to kiss, hug & stroke? **72053**

Chubby-Daddy-Teddy-Grizzly-Bear
Hot, fat, 52, 6', 218 chub lbs., versatile, safe, and a real human being enjoys vanilla to it. Kink w/boys/men trimmer & younger than I. Castro & Grnlie. **72054**

Butt Buddies
GWM, 41, 6'3", 240lbs, leather, beard/hairy, has play room for dildo/top/buttplay action. Versatile only, beginners ok. Friendly, safe-2 slings/massage table. Bears A+-. **72055**

Step Into Your Fantasies
Like undergear, mirrors, toys, leather, shaving, cock/butt play, light bondage, no pain, wicked desire. Be under 45, h/w proportion, smooth & bear about meat... **72056**

GWM For GWM Daytimes
If you are footloose & fancy free toward some great head on your "shopping trips" or whatever then I'm your man. **72057**

Young Slave For Training
Very cute 26yo, white submissive European boy wants to be fully trained by a cute but demanding master(s) under 36. Total obedience is guaranteed. **72058**

Seniors Needed
Between 55, late 70's who enjoy servicing a squeaky clean, little submissive ass, 7" cock & nice balls, that pref. some pain. HIV-, 5'2", 120lbs. You be willing to come to Sacramento. Stay over my place if you like. Serious only & HIV-. **72090**

Exhibitionist?—
Walking around naked get you stiff? Enjoy showing off? Posing? Being admired, stroked? Handsome GWM, mid 40's tall and slim, enjoys watching and sketching muscular gay, bl, and str8 dudes (25-50) undress and strut their stuff. **72141**

HIV+ Bk5'9" 165# Healthy Active
Mostly top seeking 1" on 1 interaction with lean or slim build mostly bottom. Attracted to guys with good body proportion. Prefer guys in my size range. **72091**

Hot White Or Latino Bottoms
Are wanted by 56yr old White top with a big 9" tool. I am 6'0", drk brn eyes, 160lbs wear glasses. Love to fuck young guys who are Latino under 40yrs old. **72092**

Slave Wanted
San Jose master looking for skinny, hung slaves for long bondage and cbt sessions. Must be willing and obedient. **72171**

Male Ballet Dancer Wanted
Attractive GWM, 35 would like to meet a current or former professional male Ballet Dancer, any age for fun and good times. You won't be disappointed. **72093**

Naked & Exposed
Private forced nudity fantasy games. Complete front & rear exposure. Lean, tight guy 48 seeks yng trim guys to strip & examine. You be proud or embarrassed or both. **72094**

Virgin White Athlete, 4 Black
Slim man, 6'1", 205 blue/brown rookie has dreams of Oreo Cookie. Will you be the Black man that makes me proud? I shoo! **72095**

Do You Love Jackin Off? I Do...
Cute 32yo Filipino seeks cute smooth h/w proportionate WM to 35 for jo bud-dies. Hours of porn, sharing stories, coaxing each other to pump, stroke and squirt. Touching not required. **72096**

Just Shut Up And Ride
WM 35 5'10", 195lb blond/blue muscle hung wants to meet hot masculine men to fuck. Also love to get massaged and jerked off anytime. **72119**

All Nite Sexy Uninhibited Party
Wanted sexy guys w/b to share my girlslut secret. Maybe be my part time nasty boyfriend! WGM discreet 5'10", 185 attr shaved 31yo love to pose for camera. **72120**

Seeking Hot Hung Thick Daddy
Handsome 37/8k. Need to please a real man. Will do what's told, am excellent btm/man. **72144**

GWM Seeks Ongoing Sex Buddy
Who likes mirrors, oil, cockworship, light bondage, shaving jockstraps, verbal nasty. You under 45 GWM, GWM, GWM trim fit, bottom and top, muscular + no scat, HIV, sm or fens. **72122**

Buttucker Wanted
ISO top, 35 & under, GWM, masc., 6' +. Me: submissive bottom, GAM, 5'9", 160, 35, gdlz, straight acting, into tt, dildos. **72123**

Handsome Muscular Hung Bottom
Is looking for good looking hung top or versatile guys for hot sex. I'm deep throat and hot ass. Tail is a plus. Can't wait to sit on it. **72124**

Heavyset Men
WM 44, 6', 160lbs, dark hr & eyes. I'm attracted to heavy set men with large guys who enjoy oral pleasure & sensual times. No into gay scene or drugs. **72125**

"Spank Me!"
Cute frat boy 23 needs over the knee discipline from a dominant big brother 18-35. Castro **72140**

Flip Flop Sex
GWM 52, 6'2", 180lb, HIV+, 7 1/2 tool. Don't call if you are bottom only. I believe that you should give as well as you get. Just sex- not your fantasy about sex. **72139**

Jackbutt Seeks Mr. Right Top
White thoroughbred 40's 6'10"4" husky swimmer's build desires ebony stallion (macho/muscular) for long distance, hard, wild rides. No saddle needed! **72121**

French Guys And Italian Guys
I am looking for guys that are from France and Italy for fun and good times. I am hung "9". **72097**

Discreet Oral Relief
Very attractive, WM, 41/6/175, fit, hairy, HIVneg, single, ISO WM who loves to get head in S.F. U honest, HIVneg, and hung. Looking to spoil someone. No reciprocation necessary. **72142**

Oral Bottom
Cocksucking, asslicking gay loves to serve and worship beautiful guys. **72098**

Man To Man Pleasure
GWM, 36, HIV+, brown, hzl, 6'1", 175, bottom, seeks, HIV+ tops 40-50, must have good humor, enjoy life, enjoy the outdoors, like showing himself with others. **72143**

Submissive Black Bottom
Seeks top dominant a plus, verbal a plus raunch, kink, sleaze a plus. Available weekends and some evenings. **72169**

Cocksucker Sks. Muscle Studs
Horny & hot, 45, 6', 200#, goatee wants to be between the legs of a hot muscle stud (18-40), sucking cock & ass. Your place in the Castro. **72170**

Seeking A Sugar Daddy
ISO a mature man who wants the company/companion of a 31yr old stud. I'm sincere, responsible and well educated. 5'9", 160lbs, smooth muscular, brown hr/goatee. **72172**

Beautiful Latin Seeks Asian
Me: 24, 6ft, 160, beautiful face & body, very sexy, friendly. I'm seeking a gorgeous, sensual Asian man to get together with on a regular basis. **72173**

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Get your asshole eaten by a pro!!! **72060**

Diaper Boy ISO A Daddy
37yo GWM seeks daddy or daddy master over 45. I am 5'11", 195 brown hair, hzl eyes into wetting discipline, bpd, kink seeking LTR only. **72061**

Chaw Man Working A Big Wad
Redneck, 48, 220, brn buzzcut/stache, tats digs other butch dudes who like kicking back, loading up a big wad of redman, and working up some mud-thick stud spit. **72062**

Your Feet In My Face
GBM, 47yr. In East Bay, seeks WM-30yr, height/weight proportionate with big feet long toes for massage. I have a life long foot-fetish and love to service clean feet. Absolutely love sucking feet. No reciprocation necessary. **72063**

Young Slave For Dog Training
Very cute White 26yo. boy from Europe wants to be fully dog trained by a demanding master(s) under 36. Full cooperation and obedience guaranteed. **72064**

So I'm A Cum Addict!
Heroin/cocaine far worse! just retested HIVneg ha ha. Wish there was an easier way to get my fix, but gotta suck you off (twice if you have time). **72065**

Super Size-Queen Here...
But for big loads not dicks! I suck your whatever size tool of fun usually well, you reward me with an unusually big load as a world class cocksucker! **72066**

Erotic Rope Bondage
Bondage top, GWM, 42, 5'8", 155, good-looking, HIV-, seeks masculine in-shape submissive bottom, 21-45, for erotic bondage, gags, toys. Discipline, light sm negotiable. Safe, trustworthy. SF/East Bay. **72178**

Sub Tool pig 4 Use And Abuse!!
Oral anal, fit, w/ed, sm, bblt (tt), w/ cl, flogging, slave training. 34, 5'9", 125lbs. buzzed, drk hair. **72067**

Latrine Marine Marine Eats A Lot
I earned the name latrine Marine by giving my Vietnam-era barracks-mates, special services, I'm in the latrine again, ready to receive your yellow, white, or brown salutes, your way, Sir! **72068**

Three-some Intertide Fantasy
Me: Bi-race! 52, ISO young + sensual (18-20) for discreet fantasy, 69-Greek/French, loything-jack-off, clean-sober. **72099**

Erotic Rope Bondage
Bondage top, GWM, 42, 5'8", 155, good-looking, HIV-, seeks masculine, in-shape submissive bottom, 21-45, for erotic bondage, gags, toys. Discipline, light SM negotiable. Safe, trustworthy. SF/East Bay. **72100**

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Could not connect with you - mix up in ad. Would like to team up with you. Two Seniors- I am 60-hung-into hot sex. Discreet. **72101**

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Raunch, kink, sleaze +. Avail whenever some eve. **72126**

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Trim chaser/encourager seeks 20-38yo guy with healthy appetite. Let me feed you and build your belly. Forget fit, I like you fat. **72127**

Gainer?
GWM 48, 6'2", 185, n/s. I would like to meet a gainer or a fat man comfortable with his size who likes to be admired. Big tits A+. **72128**

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Exhibitionist, 40, 6'3", 185, br/br muscular, 40yo masculine, hairy, huge cock, seeks men who love to watch a man pleasure himself. I'm into it, you be too. Older/big men ok. **72174**

Dominant Latino Seeks Slave
24yo beautiful Latino top seeks generous slave for a discreet relationship. I'm incredibly intelligent & intuitive. Let's talk. **72175**

Middle Age, Hung And Horny
Black man needs a 5 minute blow job before work (7a.m.) or before bed (11p.m.). Husky build and mustache (no other facial hair) a plus. Oakland area. Serious only. **72176**

Feet Sheer Socks Anyone Out There?
Attractive Latino 33, 5'11", 190, size 12 shoe dark features, Virgo. Would like to meet Whites, Latinos, Asians, into same fetish under 40 no smokers only. No games. **72177**

Daytime Asshole-Eater!!
Get your asshole eaten by a pro!! **72179**

Mature Manpussy Needed
Well-hung uncult BM wants very experience mature man (50+) for serious plowings at your place. Looking for intense ball draining pleasure. S.F. and East Bay only. Aroma a plus. **72180**

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Dad, Late 40s & Boy, Late 30s
ISO other good looking couples & flexible tops, 35-50. Boy takes all oral & anal action. Tops must be into mutual rimming & sucking with other dads. Poss. ltr. HIV+ **72129**

OTHERS

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Maybe your new to area too or you would like a new friend to go to dinner, movie, plays, day trips. I'm 37, 6', 155lbs, attractive and intelligent. **72069**

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Blond TV Seeks Steroid 88
Beautiful, blond, tall, thin and all legs tv seeks big steroid monster muscle-daddy-dark and hairy a plus. **72102**

Got Foreskin?
26 year old GWM, 6'2", 170lbs., clean cut. I'm into guys who are uncult and who love to kick back for complete oral service. White, Latin, Mid-Eastern ok. **72103**

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Survivor Island redux

by Victoria A. Brownworth

“Hell is other people.” We never thought we’d agree with Jean-Paul Sartre about anything, but watching the first two weeks of *Big Brother* convinced us the signal line from *No Exit* couldn’t be more true. According to America Online (AOL), co-sponsor of the CBS reality show and purveyor of the ultimate voyeuristic extravaganza, the 24-hour-a-day webcast of the Big Brother Compound, 65% of those logging on to comment on the show, webcast, housemates, *et al.* say they could definitely be on *Big Brother*. To which we say, thanks, we’ll take eating live larvae on *Survivor* to being eaten alive in the *Big Brother* house.

That Ikea set from hell really

creeps us out. Too many primary colors, scary patterned sheets, the constant screaming of the chickens, and that red room — give us some neutral shades, please, and some white noise. We felt compelled, however, in order to best serve our readers, to watch the first few (12?) hours of the program, though we admit we feel incapable of committing to four days a week of any TV show. To us, watching that much *Big Brother* is tantamount to living there ourselves, and while we realize that is the point of this interactive TV series, we find it, well, icky.

Now that the first two people have been chosen by the group for their *Lord of the Flies* exit, the meanness factor has really come to the fore. Edgy, bratty Jordan, our favorite player in this creep-

fest, the exotic dancer (they call ‘em strippers where we come from), spent much of the week antagonizing housemates by discussing her life, work and bisexual interests. (In a game of Truth or Dare, she was asked, as the stripper, of course, whom she had been attracted to when she first arrived. She said two men and two women, and named one of each. One, Brittany, she of the tri-colored hair and nose ring, voted her out.) Jordan and William were the two voted out by the house; the viewers will cast votes at 99 cents a call to decide which of the two goes. The vote will be decided tonight.

We admit, we cast our vote for William, because we find him smug, annoying and playing divisively into racial stereotypes of the arrogant, attractive black stud. We like Jordan, because she brings a different level of discourse to the group as the only admitted bisexual. Otherwise we’d like to see William stay (we have little doubt he’ll be the one voted out) just to see how much havoc he would wreak.

The other nightmarish moment other than the voting (we loved how Jamie, the nice-nice beauty queen, wanted to roll dice to choose people, and the producers wouldn’t allow it) was the exposé of Karen’s disintegrating marriage. We called this one before they were even in the house, but the truth came out this past week, and then the smarmy *Big Brother* people went to Tom, her husband, for his side. In a truly embarrassing moment, he read a poem (it sucked) about his demon wife. Nice effort at winning her back. This show is so intrusive it’s terrifying. Please, send us to the South China Sea for our traumatic group experience. Or back home to the folks. Anything but this.

And may we just say the first person we’d like to vote out is Julie Chen, the irritating host (a newscaster from *The Early Show*). Decidedly lacking in charm (she’s supposed to be CBS’s answer to Connie Chung — think again) and with an undertone of dismissive meanness that just adds to the atmosphere of contempt and torture this show engenders, she’s an anti-hostess. We vote her over to *Survivor* island. See how she fares there without a microphone and Armani suits.

Gang up on the trapped people there, and you’ll be eating rats for breakfast.

Wrong tribe

Speaking of *Survivor*, and we do, often, the melding of the tribes has not gone smoothly. The one member of the Pagong tribe we liked, Gretchen, got voted off by the Tagi alliance. We love Tagi, but Gretchen should have been in Tagi to begin with; she was Tagi material. She got hooked up with the wrong tribe, and we’d hoped to see more of her when the tribes combined. We really wanted to see her become lovers with Susan, the truck driver, who we just knew was Gretchen’s soulmate.

Meanwhile, Greg is dumping the skinny, irritating waif Colleen for big, queer naked Richard. Oh, is it going to get good now! This show rocks. We can’t wait for next season’s *Survivor*, to be held in the Australian outback (guess the producers saw Nicholas Roeg’s fabulous ’70s film *Walkabout* and decided to steal the script). Frankly, we’d like to see all the Tagi people in the new *Survivor*, plus a new team of Pagongs. Cool.

Speaking of survivors, we think Geraldo Rivera became a caricature of himself years ago, completely losing sight of his journalistic credibility. Thus we were pleased NBC revived the hard-hitting investigative reporter who won well-deserved journalism awards two decades ago before tabloid talk TV sent him into a disturbing and sometimes violent downward spiral. Rivera’s investigative special for NBC, *Smashed: Kids and Alcohol*, addressed the perils of teenage drinking, focusing on much more than binge-drinking at frat parties. The “just say no” anti-drug policies of the past two decades simply don’t apply to alcohol. Though the legal drinking age in every state is 21, over a third of American kids are drinking at 15, and over ten percent have started drinking at ten. Factor in stresses like queerness or dysfunctional families, and the numbers escalate.

According to the Rivera report, we’re raising a generation of alcoholics, and we neither recognize the signs nor seem to care much when we do. The same government agencies that spend billions in tax dollars to fight the so-called drug war haven’t funded a single program for teenage alcoholics in the US. Alcoholism remains a serious, if rarely discussed, issue for the queer community, and Rivera’s report should give pause regarding our own queer kids and alcohol.

Tops in SA

Finally, ABC gets top honors

for best and most comprehensive coverage of the International AIDS Conference in Durban, South Africa. In addition to devoting significant time on the nightly news to the conference, there were in-depth reports on *World News Now*, our favorite edgy, queerish all-night newscast, as well as on *20/20* and *Nightline*. The most poignant — no, gut-wrenching — coverage was an interview by veteran newsmen Jim Wooten, the square-headed, craggy-faced journalist who has covered more wars, atrocities and other hellacious moments of men’s inhumanity to men, women, children and animals than anyone we can think of.

Wooten always gets the horror across without ever seeming to break down. One sees in his weathered face the sorrow of the perpetual witness, but tears never hover, the rough voice never cracks. Wooten’s a tough guy from the old school who can take a bullet and keep reporting, even as blood fills his mouth.

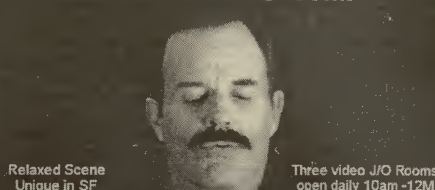
Thus it was unsurprising that ABC would assign Wooten to interview the 11-year-old South African born HIV-infected, now with AIDS, whose parents are dead from the disease, Nkosi, whose speech would open the conference. Because who else but Wooten could get through such an interview without breaking into a wash of tears?

We often despise TV and all the repellent things it shows us, up-close and personal, about how truly creepy people can be. So Wooten’s masterful, tender, probing yet not intrusive interview with a child so unique, so articulate, so filled with desire to call attention to the disease that has killed his family and, as he implies, him soon as well, reminded us of what else TV can do: show us the incomparable grace of real courage.

Nkosi, with his beatific smile and charming politeness, took Wooten on a tour of a day in the life of a child with AIDS, and Wooten, with characteristic élan, asked just the right questions, discerned the fine line Nkosi walks between child and adult.

Part of this amazing interview aired on the evening news, but the entire interview — a stunner — aired on WNN. Wooten presented a child whom we might well call a saint; he is certainly not of this world. This interview was so moving without a trace of sentimentality (because neither Wooten nor Nkosi would brook false sentiment), only the truly heartless could fail to be affected. We offer our sincere thanks to ABC for presenting a signal moment in the long horror that has been this battle against AIDS. And our praise to Wooten, who once again went to the front lines of a raging battle and reported on the core of the conflict. The heart and soul of Africa are being eviscerated, its brightest, most shining lights like this extraordinary child, who, even at his young age has devoted what remains of his life to trying to save the lives of others, are being snuffed out at an terrifying rate. Wooten reminded us, once again, that the face of AIDS, like the visage of any war, is as startling as it is terrible. But with this remarkable interview, he also reminded the viewer that even in the midst of horror, there can, against all odds, be hope. And with that, a future — if not for Nkosi, then for his peers. ▼

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BOOKS

Chris Bram

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of leeway. Also, I find working in the past gives my imagination more elbow room. With things set in the present, I feel more trapped by facts. When I am working in the past, I can make things up, and people often don't know if I am making it up or going on research. In some cases I forget myself whether or not I made it up.

When you edited *Best Gay Erotica 1998*, you said about using sex as a topic, "Sex is a wonderful subject for fiction. It's so expressive, so dramatic, a way of thinking with our bodies, the mind climbing down for a brief visit."

Sex works great for short stories. A sex act is kind of almost the right length for a short story. There is also quite a bit of sex in my novels. But it is so much part of the plot and the expression of other things that I find people often forget it when they finish the book. It was part of a bigger picture, which is what I think sex is like in real life.

How do you stay so prolific?

I work very steadily. It is either that or get a real job.

How did *Father of Frankenstein* come about?

I remember one conversation triggered it. I was having dinner with a friend, and he wanted to make a documentary on James Whale. I already knew Whale and his movies, but my friend knew a couple of facts that I didn't know, and I knew a few facts that he didn't. Because there is no footage of Whale working, my friend would have to do some fictional scenes. He asked me if I had any ideas, and immediately my mind started sparking with ideas. Basically, the opening pages of that novel came to me that evening, and the title as well. I went home and wrote up my notes and ideas, sent them to my friend and let him know that if he got the funding for the movie, I wanted to work on it with him. A year passed, and he wasn't able to make his documentary. These ideas that came to me wouldn't go away. I asked him if he minded if I took those ideas and wrote a novel.

And the rest is history. Did the release of *Gods and Monsters* change things for you?

It gives people something to talk about me. People really don't know what to make of authors. The chance that they read one of your books is one in a million, but if one of your books has been

made into a movie, even if they haven't seen it, they will have heard of it.

Bill Condon wrote the screenplay for *Gods and Monsters*. How involved in the process were you?

He did all the work, but would send me drafts of it and ask for my feedback. He would use my good ideas and ignore my stupid ones. The script was there pretty much from the start, with just minor things to alter. I let Bill know early on that it was his baby; I was not going to try to control it.

Any chance of *Dr. August* going to the screen?

I hope so. There has been some interest, some sniffing around. It would be a very ambitious, expensive project in scale and scope.

I wonder if people would be willing to chance that. Gay-themed movies don't pull them in.

Period pieces are hard to do anyway, but a gay period piece would be particularly hard.

What are you working on now?

I am fumbling my way into a new novel. I have about 100 pages. It is too soon to talk about it, except to say this one is set in the present.

Any tips for budding young authors sitting in coffeehouses with laptops?

Some days I would say, "Listen to your mother and go to law school." Seriously, though, I'd say you need to write as long as the writing gives you pleasure, whether you are getting published or not, or no matter how little money you are getting for it. Keep doing it. As soon as you're not getting pleasure from it, quit. Writing is so difficult that you have to do it for your own personal crazy reasons. You can't do it for practical reasons, like money.

How did you get started? What did you do to get *Surprising Myself* published?

It took me two years to find a publisher. I showed it to all these people. I have this huge collection of rejection letters. To get published, you should be willing to expose yourself to those rejection letters. It is personal and naked. It always feels like they're rejecting you, not your work. I have to say I still feel that, even after seven novels.

You don't get rejected anymore, do you?

Oh, yeah. I do get a better class of rejection — it's more polite — but I still get rejected. You just have to keep trying. ▼

the various historical studies that served to inspire his story. These include the work of documentary filmmaker Ken Burns and George Chauncey's award-winning book *Gay New York*, among others.) Bram's attention to detail pays off handsomely. His writing shines when he describes some of the almost surreal events that occur in this vast story, such as the electrocution of an elephant, and the burning of Coney Island.

The Notorious Dr. August is a rich, rewarding read, especially for those who have an interest in music and American history. But it is also a compelling tale of a love between men that never quite blossoms to its fullest potential. In this sense, it is thematically similar to *Father of Frankenstein*, Bram's novel about James Whale that was made into the movie *Gods and Monsters*. Bram's latest novel also seems to have the makings for the Silver Screen. ▼

Dr. August

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to bring perspective to what is at times a fantastic story. Bram's novel, after all, concerns same-sex, mixed-race love in 19th- and early 20th-century America, and in the hands of a lesser writer, the events that Bram describes would strain believability. Throughout his travels, for example, Augustus meets a dazzling array of luminaries, including Brahms, Debussy, William James, Frederick Douglass, Mallarme and Sigmund Freud. Through Augustus' more experienced eyes, however, we see these events with a helpful amount of distance, reflection and sometimes humor.

Bram's story is steeped in period detail, evidence of a writer clearly enamored of his subject matter. (In an author's note at the end of the book, Bram identifies

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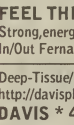
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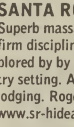
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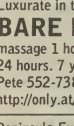
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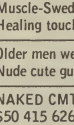
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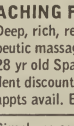
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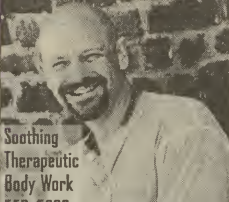
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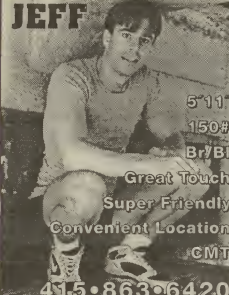
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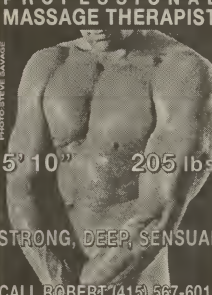
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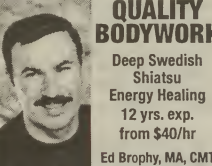
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Incredible massage by tall Texas charmer 6'6", 195# 60/in, 80/out Attractive*Attentive*Affectionate
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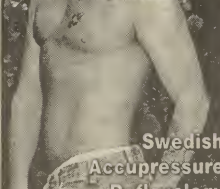
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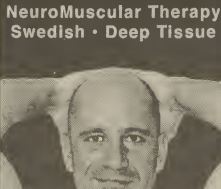
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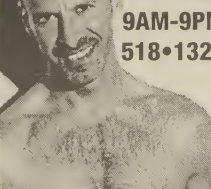
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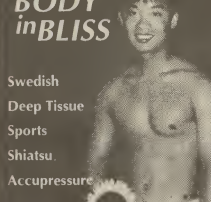
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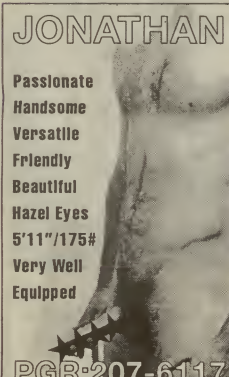
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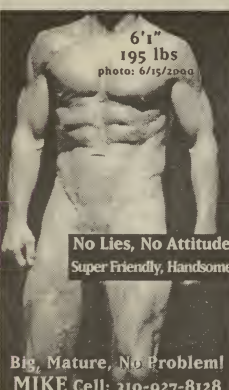
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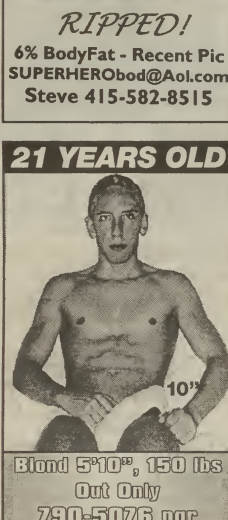
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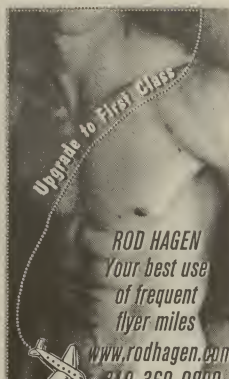
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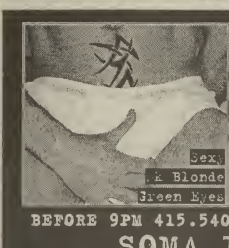
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Sexy Jock with defined
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CHOKE ON THIS!
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SIZE 12 FEET- HOT- TOP
Gd Lking Foot top 40yo, 6'1", 195#
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HOT, HUNGRY, HORNY BOTTOM
AleK, 242-4230, 24hrs. in/out

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Horny 24yo pup! Pumped pecs, legs
bubble-ass; all shaved for you!
6ft 175lbs 7.5 cut w/trimmed bush!!

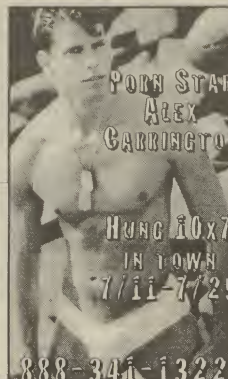
Frat Boy Hunk
Solid Muscular Pecs, Abs & Legs
Deep throat and young jock ass.
5'9", 155#, 30"w, 8" 739-7312

100% ROCK HARD
24, 5'11", 165lbs, swimmers build
tanned w/perfect 8" thick tool
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Call and lets have some fun!!

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Dark Irish handsome muscular & fun
shaved head goatee tattoos & hung
Jack 415 219-3725 in/out 24hrs

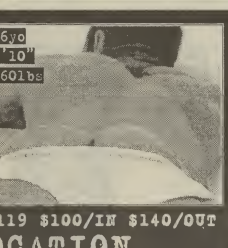
Small ff hands for pleasure &
relief. SF 100/150. Morlex 679-3320

EAST BAY
Small firm butt, 9", masculine,
versatile, page 510-641-0544



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ALEX
CARRINGTON

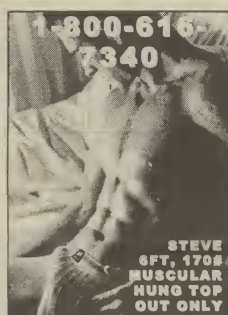
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IN TOWN
7/11-7/25
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26yo
5'10"
160lbs

Sex:
A Blonde
Green Eyes

BEFORE 9PM 415.540.9119 \$100/IN \$140/OUT
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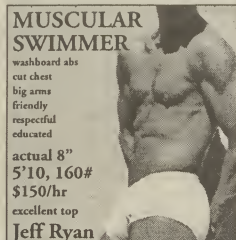
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wild! SkinheadDaren9x7@aol.com
LEWD 9X7 BONE!
Tatts/perced pg. Daren 406-0899
Featured model/Honcho/June 2-k

5'10", 160 very fit body, nice tan!
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100%REAL NO BS 'OR'
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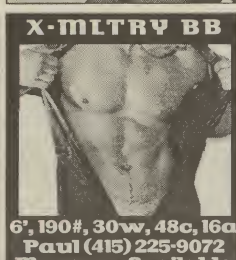
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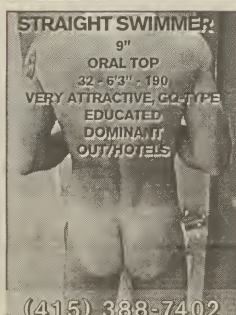
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big arms
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respectful
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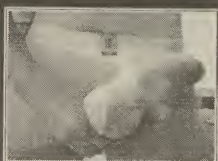
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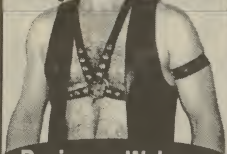
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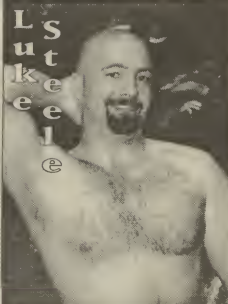
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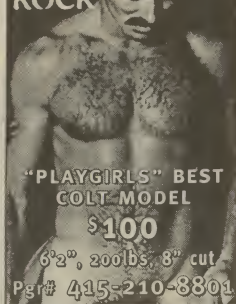
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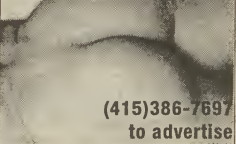
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RELEASING INTERPLAY

BAY AREA REPORTER

CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

Indicate
Type Style
Here ▼

DEADLINE

NOON on MONDAY.
Payment *must* accompany ad.
No ads taken over the
telephone. If you have a
question, call 415.861.5019.
Display advertising rates
available upon request.

RATES

First line, Regular	4.50
All subsequent lines	3.00
CAPS	double price
BOLD	double price
X-BOLD	triple price

PAYMENT

- ☐ Cash
☐ Personal Check
☐ Money Order
☐ Visa
☐ MasterCard
☐ American Express
Minimum \$10 charge.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Name _____

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name		Telephone
Address		
City	State	Zip
Number of Issues	Classification	Amount Enclosed

**MAIL WITH
PAYMENT TO:**
Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
SF, CA 94103
OR FAX TO:
415.861.8144
OR E-MAIL:
barady@aol.com

THE DUNGEON



I-ON-1

GROUPS

VOICE MAIL

FANTASIES

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As low as 49¢/minute to your Visa/MC as CompuQuest.

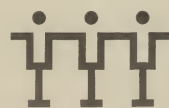
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Community

Welcome home. This is it. Where our community stays online to get news, find information, seek entertainment and reach more people, all of the time.

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